
THURSDAY, 7 MAY 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT

The sign † indicates the original language and [] directly thereafter indicates a translation.

[Hybrid Sitting held with some members present in the House and some in virtual attendance through Microsoft Teams]

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Before we proceed, I would like to make some comments about the logistical arrangements. Today's sitting shall be governed by the Standing Rules and in instances where the Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for the sitting of the House are as provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules. The Sergeant-at-Arms will be recording members' attendance. Hon members who are present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Hon members, unless there is an indication of unanimous

concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and who are entitled to cast their votes in accordance with our Standing Rules. Members who are considered to be out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and will be called to order. When an hon member wishes to raise a point of order, such an hon member may address the Presiding Officer as normal, but must mute his or her microphone when he or she has completed speaking.

Hon members you are also kindly requested to ensure that your microphones are unmuted when I recognise you and to mute your microphones when you have finished speaking.

Hon members, for the purposes of this sitting, language interpreting services are available by using the devices at your disposal.

Hon members are reminded that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid sittings and to this end, I wish to draw the hon members' attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. The Secretary and our Administration will ensure that there is a dedicated technical support at all times during the sitting.

Hon members, we will now proceed with the business of the House and we will move straight onto interpellations, in terms of Rule 157. I recognise the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Minister Marais.

INTERPELLATIONS

SANDF: deployment in the province

1. Ms B M van Minnen asked the Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

What is the extent of her Department's oversight role over the South African National Defence Force when members are deployed in the province?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Speaker, thank you to hon member Van Minnen for the interpellation. The Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety derived oversight powers over the police from Section 206 of the Constitution. The Province has no oversight authority in respect of the South African National Defence Force. However, the Minister may exercise powers over the South African Police Service, and the Municipal Police when they are deployed together with SANDF.

It is important to note that the Western Cape Government did not call for this deployment. From the outset, we expressed reservations about the deployment of the army into policing environments, particularly because of the governance and accountability challenges it creates. Unlike the SAPS, which falls within established civilian oversight structures at provincial level, the SANDF

operates under a completely different command and accountability framework.

This creates limitations and risks when it comes to ensuring transparency, monitoring conduct, and holding soldiers accountable for their action within communities. Our concern has always been that a significant budget allocated to this SANDF deployment could have been more effectively invested in capacitating the SAPS, which has the constitutional and legislative mandate to perform policing functions. Strengthening detective services, increasing visible policing, improving forensic capacity, and filling critical SAPS vacancies would provide more sustainable, long term crime fighting outcomes.

In addition, more resources should have been directed towards crime prevention programmes aimed at addressing the root causes of violence and gangsterism. The investment of those funds directly to the SANDF, into community-based interventions, youth development initiatives, substance abuse programmes and violence prevention partnerships would have had a more sustainable impact. Thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agbare Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.] I recognise the hon Van Minnen, Before I do so, hon member Adams, is that a point of order?

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Speaker, I rise to address a matter of urgent public importance affecting the residents of George and the Garden Route, following the severe storm damages that are occurring there.

The SPEAKER: Okay, hon member, I will give you an opportunity after we have completed this interpellation, in terms of the Rules, because I will have to check with the Table Staff if notice was indeed provided. And if not, to follow the process in terms of the Rules, what you have just raised. But if, with your concurrence and that of the House, can we please conclude Interpellation 1? Hon member Van Minnen?

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Since April 2026, more than 170 people have been shot in our communities. On average, five people are killed every single day. This is a crisis. It is a clear sign that SAPS is failing the people it is meant to protect. We were told that interventions were working. We were told that plans were in place. Yet even with Operation Prosper's first month yielding 315 arrests, the bloodshed continues.

Arrests mean little if they do not translate into safer streets, and arrests mean very little if they do not result in convictions. Our communities in the Cape Flats are still living in fear. The deployment of the SANDF was meant to be a turning point, a force multiplier to support SAPS, but what has it achieved?

The killings have not stopped. The violence has not slowed. Instead, this deployment has exposed the absence of any coherent, sustainable strategy to combat gang violence. SAPS continues to rely on reactive policing and short-term interventions. There is no clear plan to remove dangerous criminals from the streets, and as a result, perpetrators act with impunity, knowing they are unlikely to face consequences.

We must ask, where are the resources that were promised? The Joint Standing Committee of Defence was told to expect 800 soldiers. That number dropped to 547. Today, it appears fewer than 250 soldiers have actually been deployed to Cape Town, one of the most dangerous gang hotspots in the country.

Hon Speaker, the people of the Western Cape deserve better. They deserve a police service that is proactive, strategic and accountable. They deserve safety, not empty promises. That is why greater oversight is not optional. It is essential. We must demand transparency, proper planning and measurable results from SAPS, because without accountability, the cycle of violence will continue, and our communities will keep paying the price.

Hon Speaker, through you, we need to know how frequently does SAPS report on crime trends, operational effectiveness and police conduct in hotspot areas? I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. The question before us is not simply about deployment. It is about oversight accountability, and whether militarisation has been mistaken for safety. The Western Cape, particularly in the Cape Flats, has long been subjected to cycles of intensified and militarised policing. From Operation Fiela to Operation Lockdown, and ongoing deployment of the SANDF, we have seen this approach before.

Each time we are told it will curb gang violence, and there may be short-term declines, but none of these interventions delivered any sustainable safety. In fact, Operation Fiela was heavily criticised for targeting vulnerable communities, particularly foreign nationals, raising serious human rights concerns.

That is not safety. It is the erosion of dignity and trust. We must be cautious. Around the world, we have seen what happens when governments lean too heavily on militarised responses. In El Salvador, the use of the military to combat gangs was accompanied by states of emergency, the suspension of due process, and widespread fear, including amongst innocent people.

That is not a model we should drift towards. So, the question remains, what is the real extent of this department's oversight when SANDF members are deployed in the province? Because oversight cannot mean passive observation. Provinces already have limited authority over National Defence, and without active monitoring, transparency and accountability mechanisms, we risk creating a dangerous gap. The gap where rights can be compromised, where communities feel occupied, rather than protected, and where the root causes of violence, poverty, inequality and spatial injustice remain ignored.

Soldiers are not a substitute for social policy. If oversight is to mean anything, the department must demand accountability, protect constitutional rights, and ensure that the safety interventions are sustainable and not just visible. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Herron. Hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, we find it interesting that a senior member of the DA of the calibre of hon member Van Minnen could be preoccupied with whether the MEC has oversight over the army, instead of confronting the reality crisis facing our people in Cape Town. This question reflects what the DA represents – an obsession with power, rather than commitment to serving and protecting our people.

That is why we do not believe the MEC is correct when she says, “The deployment of the army represents the crisis of Government”. That indicates that she is aloof, and she does not appreciate what is currently happening on the ground. And of course, that is not the reality. Hon Speaker, the Constitution of this country has clear oversight of the army, as that rests with the President, as that rests with the Minister and Parliament, full stop.

The DA Provincial Government must know its way and stop attempting to exploit the crisis of violent crime for political grandstanding. A serious and accountable government would be asking how it is threatening the complimenting of the joint force of the police and the army, not posturing about authority it does not have. What this Government should be doing to complete the efforts on the ground, is for it to know when the President deployed the army, we are not oblivious to the limitations of the deployment of the army. We understood the limitations, and thus the reality that the people in the Cape Flats are falling short today.

Violent crime undermines the joint police and army enforcement, because this Government of the DA does not want to appreciate that violent crime is embedded in the chronic crisis of underdevelopment, poverty and unemployment. Thus, crime has become an economy for survival in this province.

The big question, what is your Government doing about the root causes of crime? For the DA, oversight is not about chasing soldiers. It is about delivering a coordinated whole of government response that tackles the conditions ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. Thank you very much.
[Applause.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. I recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Speaker, circular arguments do really not assist people on the ground. We are told that the deployment of the SANDF is a force multiplier in the fight against crime. But a force multiplier for what exactly, if the system is failing to secure convictions? Because policing does not end with arrests. It ends with convictions.

In the Western Cape, we are facing a crisis not only in the streets, but in our justice system. There are approximately 290 000 active cases in the province. That is

290 000 incidences where justice is delayed, and too often denied. When we look at conviction rates, the picture is very alarming. In Kraaifontein for example, the conviction rate is sitting at 64%, and in Mitchells Plain, one of the most dangerous areas, it is 50%. Which in the negative means that 50% of all the incidents do not end in conviction.

So, what does this really mean? It means that half of those accused of serious crimes are not successfully prosecuted. It means they are cycling back into the communities, and the victims are left without justice. And it means fear continues to dominate daily life.

The South African Police Service may make arrests, and the SANDF may support the operations. But if cases collapse, if investigations are weak and the prosecutions fail, we are not winning the fight. We cannot police our way out of crime without fixing the system that follows, the entire criminal justice process. We need stronger case building, better coordinating between SAPS and prosecutors, and a justice system that ensures criminals are not just arrested, but convicted. That is without going into the whole issue of the prisons, incidentally.

Hon Speaker, if we are serious about safety, we must be serious about convictions, because only permanent convictions will keep dangerous criminals off our streets. Anything less is not justice. It is merely a revolving door, and our communities deserve better. I thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agbare lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon

member.] I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Marais.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, hon Speaker. Command and Control Operation Prosper remains with SAPS, and is managed at a National level, which presents and challenges in terms of direct provincial oversight. To address this gap, engagements are underway with National authorities to establish appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanisms.

In the interim, the Western Cape Government continues to exercise its oversight role over SAPS in the province through existing measures. General Patekile and his team will give feedback at each Cabinet meeting, and also at the Provincial Safety Council.

Beyond oversight, the Western Cape Government continues to strengthen programmes to build community resilience, support at-risk youth, strengthen Neighbourhood Watches and Community Policing structures, and improve access to social and economic opportunities in vulnerable areas.

These efforts are essential to reducing the conditions in which gangs and organised crime are able to thrive. Ultimately, the SANDF deployment is seen as a temporary measure, rather than a sustainable solution to gang violence. The Western Cape Government continues to call on National Government to properly resource and capacitate SAPS in the province, including strengthening specialised units such as Crime Intelligence, the Anti-Gang Unit and Detective Services.

In addition, there is a continued call for the expansion of certain policing powers to capable municipal authorities which would enable more responsive and locally informed policing. Sustainable progress will depend on a capable policing system, effective intelligence-led operations and strong coordination across all spheres of government. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Interpellation 1 as printed on the Question Paper. Before I recognise the Minister of Infrastructure, hon Adams, I have confirmed with the Table Staff that in fact we did not receive your request as stipulated in terms of the Rules. If I can refer you to Rule 143 and 144.

The request that you have now made in the House must be done in writing at least one and a half hours before the sitting, to me. So, in terms of the Rules, I cannot allow you on that point of order. With that being said, we move on to Interpellation 2, and I recognise the Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers.

BNG housing units

2. Mr B N Herron asked the Minister of Infrastructure:

While the Province boasts about its housing unit delivery numbers, these numbers have been slowly decreasing since 1994:

What factors have led to the decline in both the (a) construction and (b) delivery of BNG housing units?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much hon Speaker, and I do thank member Herron for the question. Yes, to be sure, BNG housing numbers have declined over time. But the real question is why, and more importantly, what we are doing about it.

The first reason is both obvious and very simple. The cost of building a house today is far higher than it was in 1994, and grant funding has not kept pace with these increased costs. Cement, steel, labour, transport, municipal collections, environmental compliance and bulk services have all increased dramatically.

For the same grant allocation that built more units decades ago, now actually builds fewer. The second reason is that well-allocated land has become scarcer and more expensive, especially in cities where people need housing closest to jobs, schools and transport.

The third reason is that bulk infrastructure is under severe pressure. You cannot hand over a house where there is no sewer capacity, no electricity network, no roads and no water connections. The fourth reason is the fact that the Western Cape is growing faster than many other provinces, because people vote with their feet. Families continue moving here in search of opportunity, better governance and safer communities. Demand rises thus every year.

These four reasons are both obvious and very easy to demonstrate, but now, hon Speaker, let us speak honestly about another major cause – land invasions. When land earmarked for housing is invaded unlawfully, housing projects are

delayed, beneficiaries lose opportunities, the taxpayers fund security instead of homes, and courts and law enforcement must intervene before construction can proceed. One illustration will suffice, with Syferfontein in George. A project earmarked for housing projects for one portion of the site was disrupted when approximately 500 sites were illegally occupied.

That is not only an abstract policy debate. This involves real families prevented from receiving homes because of the unlawful actions of other people, mostly who do not qualify for housing opportunity. So when some members ask why delivery slows, they must also ask who benefits when public housing land is illegally occupied.

Hon Speaker, this brings me to a most important consideration, namely the extent to which housing delivery has actually changed. Government can no longer measure success only by counting detached BNG houses on the urban edge. Today, we deliver service sites, title deeds, social housing, affordable rental stock, mixed-use developments, informal settlement upgrading, and well-located developments closer to economic opportunity. In the last financial year alone, the Western Cape delivered thousands of title deeds and service sites, while expanding catalytic projects such as Conradie Park and other mixed income developments.

That is not less delivery. That is smarter delivery. Hon Herron may prefer a 1994 housing model. In the Western Cape, we prefer a 2026 housing solution. We choose ownership over stagnation, density over scrawl, opportunity over

symbolism, and delivery over slogans. And let me conclude with this, hon Speaker, and members of the House.

If land invasions, extortion and infrastructures sabotaged were removed from our system, more families would already have keys in their hands today. In the Western Cape, we thus remain committed to building not just houses, but sustainable communities where people can live with dignity. I thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agbare Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.] I recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. It is the Democratic Alliance who is consistently referring to delivery since 1994. For the Minister to be referring to Conradie as an example of progress, the House needs to be reminded that Conradie was conceived and delivered when Helen Zille was the Premier of this Province, more than seven years ago.

But we have to be honest about this bragging around the 1994 to 2026 cumulative numbers, they are actually a slight of hand, designed to mask decline. But when you strip away the spin and look at what is actually being built every year, a very different and very deeply troubling picture emerges.

Between 1994 and 2025, this Province delivered an average of 8 200 BNG housing units per year, and that was already not enough. But instead of improving scaling or accelerating delivery, the system has gone backwards.

Between 2006 and 2026, delivery dropped to approximately 5 100 units per year. It's not just a technical adjustment or a minor dip. It is a 62% collapse in housing delivery.

Housing delivery has not just declined, it has practically fallen off the cliff. In 2019/2020 the Province delivered 8 038 BNG homes. By 2024/2025, that number had crashed to just 3 046, a collapse that has happened while housing need has exploded, while waiting lists grow longer, and when informal settlements continue to expand across the province.

The gap between need and response is not closing. It is widening in real-time, and yet, we are told to be reassured by the talk of land releases, catalytic projects, future pipelines. The people cannot live in pipelines or in announcements, and a press relief is not a roof. The truth is simple. These grand plans are not translating into any housing delivery at scale, and certainly not at the scale required by the crisis we are currently living in.

But this is not only a question of how many houses are built. It is also about where they are built and who continues to be pushed to the margins, because while the Province occasionally points to well-located projects like Conradie, as proof of progress, these remain the rare and incomplete exception and not the rule.

The dominant pattern is unchanged. Poor families are still relocated to the periphery, far from jobs, transport, schools and opportunity. In other words,

instead of dismantling the apartheid spatial logic, housing delivery is too often reproducing it brick by brick. So, we are left with a dual failure. Fewer houses are being built each year, and too many of those houses reinforce the geography of exclusion, rather than breaking it.

That is the real record, not the cumulative totals, not the speeches and not the projections. It raises a hard question that we cannot avoid. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Herron, your time is up. You will have another opportunity. I recognise the hon Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. It seems some members live in a vacuum, isolated from the realities faced by many South Africans. Since 1994, the ANC has governed this country, and it is under their leadership that South Africans have endured corruption, economic decline, rising living costs and increasing violence, all of which have placed immense pressure on housing delivery, despite political will to build.

However, hon Speaker, despite these challenges, and despite budget constraints that were caused by ANC failures, for more than 30 years, the DA-led Western Cape Government has continued to deliver. Since 2009, the Western Cape has created more than 213 000 housing opportunities, benefitting more than 850 000 people. In the Western Cape, we continue to build homes, despite difficult circumstances.

So hon Speaker, perhaps the real question to Minister Simmers should be: what are the different mechanisms that the department has implemented to provide housing solutions in the Western Cape? Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Hon Speaker, a lie is often repeated by the DA in this House and in the City of Cape Town, that this Province has built more houses than any other province since 1994. That statement in isolation is true, but the DA must not claim it as a victory.

That achievement belongs to nobody else but the ANC. It is the ANC that prioritised housing delivery when it governed this province, and ensured that our people accessed shelter with dignity. When the ANC governed, year after year, without fail, we delivered over 25 000 housing opportunities. Under the DA, that number has declined drastically to well below those levels. This is not accidental. It is not just a capacity issue. It is a deliberate policy choice.

Equally concerning is the pace of delivery today. With a housing backlog of 697 000 in the province, of which 440 000 plus is in the Cape Metro. The scale of this crisis is undeniable, yet delivery rates just over 3 000 breaking new ground houses in the last financial year. It means that at this pace, it will take generations to meet the existing demand.

This is not merely a policy failure. It is a moral one. The slow pace of delivery,

coupled with the failure to release well-located land, reflects a broader unwillingness to confront inequality. Instead, the DA advances a neoliberal agenda, handing over land to private developers while the working class is pushed to the margins.

The consequence is clear. Fewer houses, longer waiting lists and deepening inequality. If our people want houses, they must rise, organise and vote this DA Government out of power. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker. I recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. What I was about to ask, is if this approach is capable of delivering either the scale or the spatial transformation that justice demands. The decline in housing delivery cannot be treated as simply a technical or a grant funding problem. It is inseparable from how the Province handles money, capacity and crucially, its own political choices.

Let us be clear about the funding reality. BNG is financed entirely through National grants. These funds are ringfenced, purpose specific, and must be spent on housing delivery. So when the Province speaks about allocating funding for housing, what is actually being described is the routine spending of money that has already been transferred from the National Government for that exact purpose.

There is no meaningful additional provincial investment stepping in to expand delivery. No supplementary fiscal push to close the gap. No serious attempt to accelerate outcomes through provincial resources. Just the pass-through of grant funding, framed as though it represents proactive Provincial Government.

This matters because it raises a blunt and uncomfortable question. If delivery is already declining under a system where the primary funding stream is guaranteed, then what exactly is failing? Money, capacity or political will? The answer cannot be reduced to funding alone. Everywhere money is spent, implementation is weak, uneven, increasingly unable to keep pace with demand.

Rising needs collide with shrinking annual delivery, and the system simply does not respond to the scale required. The result is not just backlog. It is structural stagnation. But the deeper issue is not only how much is delivered, or even how efficiently. It is what kind of city or province is being produced through that delivery. Because housing is never just about shelter. Location determines everything that follows.

A well-located home is not just a roof, it is access. Access to jobs, to transport, to schools and to economic networks. It reduces the daily cost of survival, and expands the horizon of opportunity. Over time, these advantages compound, hon Speaker. They shape mobility, income and life chances.

Peripheral housing does the opposite. So when peripheral delivery becomes the norm, it is not a neutral planning outcome. It is the quiet reproduction of spatial

injustice, and that is the uncomfortable pattern we are left with, a system where annual delivery is declining, while the limited housing that is delivered, continues to reinforce the very geography of exclusion it is supposed to dismantle. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Herron. I recognise the Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker indeed, and to you, the hon member Lekker, who now boasted about the ANC's number of units they built. Just a friendly reminder. From 2009 until 2013, your honourable comrade, Tokyo Sexwale was the Minister of Human Settlements. In a question to Parliament, he indicated that for the period 1999 until ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. There is a point of order. Member Sayed, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Speaker. Can the hon Minister please speak through you? Even though he is online, he must still speak through you. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister, please address me and not the member directly.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Apologies, hon Speaker. Through you, hon Speaker to member Lekker. Again, Tokyo Sexwale was the National Minister of Housing and Human Settlements from the period 2009 till 2013. In a question to Parliament in 2011, when asked how many substandard houses needed to be rectified, he indicated for the period 1999 until 2009, and remember, this is the period the ANC governed the Western Cape, where they were pushing out quantity instead of quality housing opportunities.

In excess of R1.3-billion had to be budgeted to rectify effectively substandard houses built for our much-needed people at the cost of the quality that they so much needed to address their dignity. So, instead of quantity, quality is actually what the member should have asked about.

In terms of hon member Wessels. Member Wessels, indeed, we have expanded, since 2019, our focus on affordable housing and partnerships. We have been able to, not just through the various grants, which the hon member Herron refers to, closely utilising our own departmental funds, initiate DA-initiated policy approaches to our focus on affordable housing.

Key examples of that do exist, and I can provide that in writing to the housing, where we have utilised own funding to showcase an alternative delivery capacity and capability in terms of human settlements, in a functional and capable state, with capable and functional municipalities as partners.

It is quite crucial that hon member Herron and the members of the House,

through you, hon Speaker, understand. In 1994, to build a house, the subsidy was R7 500, and it built houses of 27 square metres. If you go to Laingsburg, you can see many of these old houses along the N1 corridor.

In 2004/2005, the cost had increased to R14 102 per unit. Again, the sizes of the houses were 27 square metres. In 2009/2010 under Tokyo Sexwale, we saw the introduction of a 40 square metre house, and the subsidy then increased to R55 706. We then further saw between 2014/2015 the introduction of standards, given the inferior quality the African National Congress built through the RDP Programme across all nine provinces, which saw the cost to ensure that the houses are of a quality in nature.

The subsidy then increased to R110 947. That increased then, in the financial year 2018/2019 to a subsidy of R116 967. It remained like that for nearly almost seven years. In 2021/2022, we then started seeing incremental increases on the subsidy to R183 920. I beg your pardon, in 2021/2022 to R183 920 per unit, which is the current subsidy.

But if now the House can keep in mind, all this time, the cost per unit increased, but the subsidy did not keep pace. So as much as we saw an increase in the subsidy quantum, the outputs would never keep pace because the houses got bigger and the funding allocated ultimately led to ensure that the 40 square metre houses, quality houses, were built. I do need to add to that as well, hon Speaker.

In conclusion, we need to understand that as the costs of raw material increases, no matter how much grant funding we receive, we will always be unable to address the need immediately. Hence, our approach within the private sector, and later in this year, we will announce a Western Cape [Interjection].

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired. Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... addressing our infrastructure needs, including [Interjection].

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister, Can I please ask that the Minister be muted? Thank you very much, hon members. That brings us to the end of Interpellations. We now move on to Questions in terms of Rule 202. Hon members, I just want to alert the House that we will first deal with Question 2 on the Question Paper as questions standing over from Thursday the 16th of April 2026, as agreed by the House. I recognise the Minister of Social Development, Minister Londt.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

Questions standing over from Thursday 16, April 2026, as agreed to by the House:

State-funded rehabilitation

2. Mr F C Christians asked the Minister of Social Development:

(a) How many state-funded rehabilitation beds are currently available in the Western Cape, (b) what are the waiting periods for admission and (c) what preventative programmes are being rolled out at community level to curb youth addiction?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. The question from hon Christians. However, before I start, hon Speaker, I just want to take a moment to convey my condolences to the family of Lauren Fredericks, who tragically lost her life yesterday. She was out the entire night assisting those people that were evacuated. When they came back to the office, it was a freak accident, and she lost her life. But to all the frontline service personnel, also all the DSD personnel, our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time. Thank you so much.

Hon Christians, thank you so much for the question. Question (a), or question two part (a) is how many state-funded rehabilitation beds are currently available in the Western Cape?

The response to this is that the Western Cape Department of Social Development funds and supports five inpatient treatment facilities for 689 subsidised bed spaces. This is at a cost of R80-million 533 829 for the 2026/2027 financial year. Part (b) on the question... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, before you continue with part (b), can you please

speak to me and not to the member.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I will do so, hon Speaker, and then through you to the hon member. You see, I am a man, now you want me to multitask, hon Chair, but just let me get my space. Part (b) is: what are the waiting periods for admission?

Waiting periods are kept as short as possible through an open cycle admission system, allowing clients to be admitted without fixed intake dates. Most centres do not have waiting periods beyond the six-to-eight-week cycle intake dates. The department works closely with facilities and monitors admissions and occupancy to prevent delays and ensure timely access to treatment.

Then part (c) of the question, it is: what preventative programmes are being rolled out at community level to curb youth addiction? Preventative programmes are actively implemented at community level. The department currently funds 27 non-profit organisations that deliver a range of community-based services that include early intervention and aftercare support.

Programmes are implemented by 11 funded school-based organisations, with a focus on providing services to learners, thereby ensuring accessibility within educational settings. These organisations facilitate brief interventions, and enable early identification of substance use among youth. Educators are supported in the referral process, contributing to a coordinated and comprehensive service delivery framework for young people.

School-based psychosocial support programmes delivered by qualified social workers form a key component of this approach, and provide learners with access to information, counselling and emotional support. They also incorporated peer mediation and conflict resolution training, equipping young people with essential life skills to manage challenges.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Before I recognise the hon Christians. Hon members, I just wish to remind you that you need to give me an indication if you wish to ask a follow-up question. I have noted hon Christians, hon Kaizer-Philander, hon Lekker. So there are four opportunities, and I am doing – I probably should have done this in the beginning.

There are four opportunities, members. If you want to ask a question, the first question, or the first opportunity to pose a follow-up question, automatically is afforded to the member who posed the initial question. So there are three additional opportunities on any question. Hon Christians, hon Kaizer-Philander, and hon Lekker in that order.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you Minister for the reply. We know that drugs are a major problem. Is there any monitoring? When a person enters a facility and leaves, is there any monitoring that the person does not come back? How do you monitor that, because there is a lot of money going into it. I know of a lot of people that do not make it. They leave and they go back into drugs.

So that is a major concern, the person falling back into that. So the money goes in, so I just want to know, are there programmes at least, or some accountability to make sure that these guys stay on the right road? Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister, before I recognise you again, just to remind members, you are allowed to ask one follow-up question, and there is no need to motivate your question. There are only 60 minutes allocated for question time for this section, so I am trying to guide you so that you can get the maximum opportunity to ask your questions. Hon Minister, I recognise you.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Christians, that is the nature of fighting this scourge, is that we are trying our best with its community interventions or inpatient treatments, that you do not have the relapse, but you do find that. Whenever there is somebody that relapses, it is something that affects the individual, their families, the people that work with them as well.

We will be able to give you those stats. That is more a statistical question that you have asked me, and I do not have that on me now. But you are welcome to submit a written question, and then we can give you the relapse rate in our facilities.

You are also, and I know you did not ask that, but you are also – we have the issue of non-registered facilities, and that is something that we are actively

working towards. Firstly, to get facilities compliant, but those that are resistant to that, to actually go the full legal route to close down some of those facilities. But if you can submit that to me, that statistical question in writing, I will get my team to get back to you. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Minister, thank you very much for the response. My initial question was based on part (c) of the question, but Minister quite comprehensively expanded on community-based prevention.

My question, therefore, through you, hon Speaker to the Minister, are there any plans to increase the number of state-funded rehabilitation beds or facilities in the next two financial years? Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon member Philander, we really try, and you are well aware, we fund 1 172 NGOs to the value of R1.19 billion. I am acting this week for the Minister of Finance as well. I wish I could change my budget now, but it is something that we continuously advocate for. We have, across the board, got a 4% increase, which was above inflation, for the support of the NGOs. But our first priority is to make sure that the

organisations we support now, they stay alive. They keep thriving as an organisation.

Obviously, we are also trying to see where we can expand, where we can take hands. With the launch of the Cape Care Fund, we are now trying to look for alternative sources. We have that big contract that was signed now with the Cape Town Science Centre that gives a cash injection. But as I said from the beginning, we need to make sure that the organisations we currently fund and support, that we keep them afloat.

But we are always open for ideas and suggestions and finding new ways. We have also found that community interventions are cheaper than inpatient facilities. So that is the first one that we are trying to do now, but there is a definite need. So that is something that we present to the Standing Committee as well, what we are currently doing, and when the resources become available, we will obviously look at the needs across the province, where the highest pressures are and what we can do then. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon Lekker.

Mr P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Maybe I must ask the hon Minister as to how are the rehabilitation beds distributed across the districts?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: That is a question that I can provide you in writing for. What I have said in the first one, we have got the five inpatient treatment facilities that provide 689 subsidised bed spaces. But if you want the exact locations of those, we can quickly pull that for you, off the database. It is information that is freely available. It was in our Annual Report as well, but I will ask my office to pull it and send it through to hon Lekker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. There is another last opportunity, and that is hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Minister, if you can tell me, some of these people that go to the centres, and they are successful, do you use some of them as role models to go out and help with this problem, the drug problem that we have? Do you have any programmes like that, where you can use people that overcame the drugs, to go out in communities and assist? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, very much hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Colleagues, I am more than happy to always answer these questions, but I am going to try and quickly find the gentleman's name. I visited Ramot, and there is a gentleman that gave his testimony, and is now a motivational speaker. I think he has run the Comrades Marathon as well.

We like to enjoy, and I think you will probably see it more and more being done in the department, that we start telling these stories, because quite often, you just hear the bad news, but there are also those success stories. The one that immediately pops up is the gentleman from Ramot, and how he is now running to create awareness.

He also tells the story of how, when he went through it and he had to go back to work, the struggle that it is. He used to work in the hospitality industry, and in the hospitality industry, you've got access to alcohol quite easily, and how he had to overcome all of those challenges. So yes, I could just give you a short answer, but there are more and more of those stories.

There is the young girl, one of our foster kids now, a fifth-year medical student. There is one of the young boys that came out of our security centres that is a boxing champion. It is those kinds of stories that you actually get goosebumps and you like telling it. I will get the exact name of the gentleman that went through the Ramot programme. He is one of their ambassadors. We do sell those stories, and it warms the heart, because it gives that motivation to others that go through similar circumstances. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes Question No. 2. We move on to Question No. 5, and I recognise the hon Minister, Minister of Social Development, Minister Londt.

Municipalities; Local Drug Action Committees

5. Mr F Kamfer asked the Minister of Social Development:

(a) What is his department doing to ensure that every municipality has a functioning Local Drug Action Committee and (b) why are there only 16 out of a possible 25 local drug action committees?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Kamfer asked: “What is his department doing to ensure that every municipality has a functioning Local Drug Action Committee?” The Department of Social Development has established the Western Cape Substance Abuse Forum, which provides a range of support to municipalities for the establishment and operations of local drug action committees. The DSD Western Cape Substance Abuse Forum has continuously engaged with mayors, their municipalities and their stakeholders to encourage the establishment and functioning of local drug action committees.

The Department of Social Development Western Cape Substance Abuse Forum uses the LDAC Standard Operating Procedure to provide orientation, capacity building, refresher workshops that give an overview of the prevention of and treatment of Substance Abuse Act No. 70 of 2008, Chapter 10, to the mayors, their municipalities, stakeholders and communities.

This aligns with the Act’s emphasis on a whole-of-society approach. The DSD

WC SAF Annual Report highlights the progressive efforts of the established and functioning LDAC in adapting the NDMP 29/2024 time period, despite the limited resources available to them. For example, challenges remain in achieving comprehensive intersectoral collaboration and full departmental engagements.

The ongoing efforts to improve these areas, along with the planned capacity building workshops, training and increased coordination, demonstrate a commitment by DSD to fulfil the ACT as it is mandated. Then, section (b) why are there only 16 of a possible 25 LDAC Local Drug Action Committees? Local Drug Action Committees have been established at 19 of the 30 municipalities, but some need to be reestablished.

The latest status of LDACs, they are as follows: City of Cape Town, Alcohol and Drug Action Committee established an expansion of sub-council area LDACs currently underway; Theewaterskloof LDAC, they have established Swartland, Saldanha, Swellendam, Mossel Bay, Hessequa, Stellenbosch, Matzikama, Knysna, Cape Agulhas, Overstrand, they've got reestablishing of LDAC(?), George LDAC, Witzenberg, Drakenstein, Prince Albert, the reestablishment of Langeberg, Oudtshoorn and Bergrivier.

Municipalities with no established LDACs are as follows: Beaufort West, Laingsburg, Breede Valley, Bitou, Cederberg, Kannaland, and then there are the district municipalities, which are West Coast, Cape Winelands, Overberg, Garden Route, and Central Karoo.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Kamfer. Then I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander and then hon Windvogel.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Thank you very much for the response, Minister. The Local Drug Action Committees obviously reside within municipalities, which is the government closest to the people. Hon Minister, how does the department monitor the performance and the impact of Local Drug Action Committees across all municipalities? Thank you, hon Speaker.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie. Agbare Minister?

[The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. We actually have a dedicated staff member that engages with the municipalities. That member has presented to the Standing Committee before. But it is an ongoing engagement, as I said earlier, that we engage with the mayors, with the municipalities, making sure that we are as closely as possible aligned to the legislation and in line with the National Drug Master Plan 2019 to 2024.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I think I was partly covered by hon member Philander, but I also want to check with the Minister. Out of the 16 existing committees, how many are actually functional, meeting

regularly, implementing programmes and reporting outcomes, rather than merely existing on paper? Because you mentioned a lot of names, municipalities, and I know for a fact that they are not functioning.

As I am saying that member Philander covered me with the monitoring system, what type of – I really want to understand. Is it only engagement between the staff member from your office with those different municipalities, or are they submitting reports in terms of work done? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Just a quick correction. Local Drug Action Committees, 19 out of the 30, have been established. There are some that are busy with reestablishment. So, as I said, it's Langeberg, Oudtshoorn and Bergrivier that are re-establishing. So, you can interpret that as the 16 or 19.

It depends on situation from municipality to municipality. You argue that some are more proactive than others. Hon member, we are happy to drill down on each one specifically. There is an area that you say, as in you are aware, that they are just ticking the box and they are not doing what they are supposed to do. Please flag that with us, so that we can get our team to then go out and maybe sit in on that meeting as well.

The legislation is there. The guidelines are there to make the maximum impact.

But if you are aware of an area that it's a box ticking, in your opinion, or in your view, let us look into that together and see if we can then take it from the words that are in the legislation to actionable implementation thereof.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Before I recognise you, hon Kaizer-Philander, hon Minister, again, please speak to me and not directly to the member. Hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you to the Minister. Minister, I was going to ask on the measurable impact that these LDACs have in the different communities when it comes to reducing substance abuse. But one will also want to drill in, in the specific areas, so nothing prevents the Oversight Committee from inviting the Department back in going into that finer detail per area. For that reason then, hon Speaker, I then will not be posing a question at this point, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander. Are there any further opportunities? Are there any further questions to the Minister on this question? If not, we move ON. That brings us to the end of Question No. 5 as printed on the Question Paper. We move on to Question No. 7, and I recognise the Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Minister Marais.

Murders in the province: response and interventions

7. Mr M B Nqgentsu asked the Minister of Police Oversight and

Community Safety:

In the light of the reported 345 murders recorded in January 2026 and the additional 83 killings recorded in 11 days in March 2026:

- (a) What urgent and coordinated interventions are being implemented and
- (b) why has there been no decisive oversight response to this ongoing crisis that resembles a war zone?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you for the question, hon Nqgentsu. The department continues to support the deployment of LEAP officers in the areas most affected by violent crime, in partnership with the City of Cape Town. LEAP officers in these priority areas have also been allocated to support the army deployment during Operation Prosper.

The Department is working with other stakeholders to strengthen the response of Government and civil society. One such initiative is a Community Safety and Development Programme in Mitchells Plain, where the department is working with community representatives, Government departments and external stakeholders to address the drivers of violent crime.

There is also an anti-gang implementation plan to discuss emerging trends in the gang landscape, and assist all security stakeholders present to adjust their approach to addressing prevailing circumstances. And then part (b), the Province exercises oversight over the South African Police Service and

municipal police on a continuous basis, but also through the Provincial Safety Council, chaired by the Premier.

SAPS and other stakeholders report on crime statistics and programmes to address violent crime. We summonsed the PC General Patekile to account to Cabinet about operational aspects of fighting the surge of the ongoing conflict. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Nqgentsu and then hon Van Minnen. Did I miss anyone?

Mr M B NQGENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Chair, and thank you very much, MEC for your attempt to respond. I think the MEC partly covered question (a), but you did not respond to question (b). The question is: why is there not decisive oversight response to this ongoing crisis in this period, as recorded? We understand the principles you outline ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, you have posed your question. Hon members, before I recognise the Minister, I again remind you, you are allowed, in terms of the Rules, to ask one follow-up question. There are three additional opportunities after the initial member who posed the question to ask his or her follow-up question. So, use those opportunities. Hon Minister, over to you.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you for the follow-up. Hon Ngqentsu, I must tell you, it is very complex and difficult in our oversight over SAPS. We do... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can I please ask that you work with me and speak to me and not directly to the members.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Apologies, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: We need to deal with the Rules in this House, and not relationships. Hon Minister, please speak to me.

An HON MEMBER: Relationship or relations?

The SPEAKER: Relations.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: So that is why we constantly ask for the expansion of some policing powers, like investigation [Interjection.]

Mr M B NQGENTSU (ANC): Order.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take you seat. Is that a point of order, hon member?

Mr M B NQGENTSU (ANC): Yes.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr M B NQGENTSU (ANC): In the period under review, what oversight road did you plead? That is question (b).

The SPEAKER: Hon member, that is not a point of order, and you cannot dictate how the Minister responds to your question, and it is not the job of the Presiding Officer to adjudicate on the answer. So that is not a point of order. Hon Lekker, is that a new point of order? Okay, hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Speaker, so what we do, or what I do, I go out and do unannounced visits to SAPS stations. I build relationships with the good cops, and we lift out all the problems that we do have in our hotspot areas. We do regular walkabouts, late night, early mornings with the Neighbourhood Watches, with SAPS, with Law Enforcement, with our LEAP, and with our Traffic at times, and that is our oversight, to see for ourselves what is going on, and make recommendations according to what we see to PC General Patekile.

I have regular meetings with General Patekile, and I must say, recently in Samora Machel, I visited Samora Machel in the beginning of March. It has got terrible conditions, and after two weeks, we did get, everything that we

addressed, we got from PC General Patekile, except the vehicle. But we are on that as well. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon Van Minnen and then hon Lekker.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. What I would like to know is, in terms of the shortcomings of the Community Safety Act and Oversight, how is community level interventions such as Neighbourhood Watches and CPFs being strengthened in the most affected areas to prevent further escalation? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, hon Van Minnen for the question. The Neighbourhood Watches as well as the CPFs can ask for funding that we can give to them. We also look into the accreditation of all the Neighbourhood Watches, as well as our CPF. We work closely with the CPF Chairpersons, as well as with the Neighbourhood Watches on a regular basis, and then we are in a process to change our Community Safety Act to enhance our commitment and, I want to say, elaborations with our Neighbourhood Watches and CPFs. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Lekker and then hon Ngqentsu.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you hon Speaker. I would like to know were there any resources redirected as a result of the crisis cited under (a)?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you. The first part of your question I did not get it.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Were there any resources that were redirected as a result of the crisis of the 300 and something people that were killed? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Yes, thank you for the question, hon Lekker. Yes, we did redeploy our LEAP officers. There is a reaction unit that went out to these hotspot areas. We work closely also with Operation Lockdown and Operation Shanela too to address these terrible killings that happened. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NQGENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, MEC. Hon Speaker, the

MEC, in responding, she indicated that the conditions of the people of Samora Machel are horrible. What are those conditions? Can she paint a picture to this House about the conditions which she observed when she visited Samora Machel? Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you hon, Speaker, and thank you for the question. I think it is a new question, if I have got it right? But I will give you our report. I will send the report through to you.

There were no – the gates were not working. The police station is falling apart. That is just one of the things. The staff members, there are not enough officers at the police station. The telephones did not work. I will give the report to the hon member so that he can look at it. Everyone has been addressed, except the vehicle situation. That we are looking at. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member, that is the end of the four opportunities to the Minister, so that brings us to the end of Question No. 7. We move on to Question No. 11, and I recognise the hon Minister of Social Development, Minister Londt. Can you please speak to me.

*Old-age homes***11. Ms T Lithakong asked the Minister of Social Development:**

With regard to old-age homes in the province.

- (1) Whether there is a database for elderly people in need of placement at old-age homes funded by his department, especially for elderly people who rely on State grants; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether his department has its own old-age homes that they administer to the benefit of elderly people in need of care; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, I will speak directly to you, and I will make sure that everyone hears me quite clearly. So, the hon Lithakong asked whether there is a database for elderly people in need of placements at old age homes funded by the department, especially for elderly people who rely on State grants. If so, what are the relevant details? So part one is as follows. There is no centralised database for elderly people in need of placement in residential facilities being kept and managed by the Department of Social Development in the Western Cape.

All older persons requiring social work assistance from the Department are logged on the Department's Social Work Integrated Management System

Application. For placements in old age homes, the Department of Social Development subsidises bed spaces at residential facilities which are independently owned and managed entities.

Each facility has its own admission policy, a set of admission criteria and payment structure, maintaining its own admissions list. Prospective residents or family members are able to apply directly to these facilities with the assistance of the department, if required.

The second part is whether the dhas its own old age homes that they administer to the benefit of elderly in need of care. If not, why not? The department does not operate its own old age homes, but funds 113 old age homes run by MPOs to a total amount of R227.5-million in this current financial year.

The department also funds older person service centres, as well as independent and assisted living projects. The department aims to align itself with the objectives of the Older Person's Act 13 of 2006, which promotes community-based care for older persons, in order to ensure that an older person can remain in his or her home within the community for as long as possible. The department primarily funds old age homes for persons needing frail care, and who are unable to remain in their community.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Lithakong. Hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Thank you for the response, hon Minister. My question given, the increase, Minister, through you, hon Speaker, the increase in the cost of living and the operational expenses, Minister, that faces these facilities. What are the National contributions towards that, if any, Minister? And also, the subsidy levels in line with – are these subsidy levels in line with inflation and the rising costs of essential services? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. There were two parts to that question. So hon Minister, I will allow you to answer the first part. There is another opportunity if you so wish, hon Kaizer-Philander.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: So, it is true that the cost-of-living crisis, the cost of living has gotten more expectations for everyone. That is why, when we presented to the Treasury, we motivated for an above inflation increase. On an average, as I said previously, we got a 4% increase. One of the areas that we have identified is the older person.

So, we got an increase, but it is never enough. That is why we try and find alternative resources, alternative sources. Recently, Minister Simmers has assisted us in facilitating donations of nappies for elderly people. We donated just over R50 000 to three of the old age homes that really struggle, and that is what we try and do.

We will make sure that from our side we motivate for the highest possible

increase. We make sure that we fund those 113 facilities. We pay our subsidy in advance. We have now brought in additional subsidies that we have not done previously for other categories in the facilities. But we also assist with the organisations to get a platform for them.

That is one of the sectors that I visited a lot, whether it is in Beaufort West or whether it is in Knysna, whether it is up on the West Coast, here in the Metro. We try and visit these facilities and highlight the need for individuals and corporates to get involved with them.

As the members know, there were about five facilities that were on our watchlist that had trouble in managing or meeting all the requirements. We saw that KSE has started turning around with the administrator that we have put there. Vermont has done a good job in getting themselves turned around. But we are the province that has got one of the highest percentage of elderly residents and it is incredibly expensive housing them in the old age homes.

So we need to try and find that way of getting that care in the communities. The Older Person's Forum has presented to yourself, and they have come together as a body to make sure that we find a way and best practices of looking after the older persons at a lower rate. That often means that we need to do that in our communities.

So yes, there is always space for improvement, but we have done our best to make sure that from our side we give above inflation support and then see how

we can unlock further funding. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, the next person is hon Kaizer-Philander, then hon Bans, and then hon Marais.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Through you to the Minister. Hon Minister, there is a need, and it seems like there will always be a need for these care facilities. So what are the department's long-term strategies in place to address this growing demand? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. I briefly touched on that, but it is incredibly expensive doing a residential facility. What we will then have to start doing is getting more community-based support that is happening.

We are seeing it already being rolled out, but if you can care for somebody in their home, in the community for as long as possible, and then only when they become frail and need that higher level of care, then you start institutionalising people. That might be one of the solutions, but it is an ever-increasing age threshold that we are dealing with.

People are becoming older, and we are also finding more and more people

struggling with dementia, with Alzheimer's, and that also takes more staff to look after a smaller group of people, which also pushes up the costs. But there are also, we have seen some technological advancements where you can monitor people with less staff.

We recently, on an oversight, saw where you monitor somebody's heart rate while they are sleeping, and if something then happens, it gets picked up by the nurses' station. We need to see how we can start incorporating technology in driving down the cost.

Obviously, your initial expenses will be higher, but in the long term, that will work as well. Those are some of the options that we are looking at, to see what we can do to deliver the same level of care at a lower cost in our facilities, but we also need to make sure that we expand our footprint within the communities. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker. My question is about monitoring. What monitoring systems are put in place to old age homes that are funded by the department? How does the department follow the money, if it is actually doing what it is supposed to be doing in that specific old age home? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: We have been doing this, hon Speaker, for a number of years. We send our officials out. They make sure that the organisations are compliant. The one thing that I did flag, and I have said this to the Committee as well, that we want to try and see how we can do more regular monitoring outside of that, what is required.

We have piloted some of our blitz monitoring, or speed monitoring, so we will still make sure that we comply to the norms and standards in terms of monitoring. But we also want to make sure that we increase that, and that is also, through you, hon Stephens has done that before, hon Philander has done that before.

They visited, hon Kamfer has also done that. They visited the facilities, and then they flag when there is an issue, and then we make sure that we send out our officials to look at those complaints. So the standard cycle of monitoring, we will continue doing that. But if there is any issue that is being flagged, we do go out and send people to follow up on those interventions. Some of them had valid grounds, and then we start putting corrective measures in place.

That is what I appreciate about this Committee. They give us – †hulle gee ons gas. Ek weet nie wat dit in Engels is nie. Maar hulle gee ons gas, maar hulle sorg ook dat ons ons werk doen, en dat ons die ad hoc besoeke ook doen wanneer daar kwessies geopper word met ons.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[They give us gas. I do not know what it is in English but they give us gas. They also see to it that we do our work, and that we also do the ad hoc visits when there are issues to be raised with us.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. I wanted to know from the Minister, he mentioned that there was no database for those who apply for placement, but there is record kept in their database of their applications. Now, I just want to understand, how does your department then plan for future demand for placements for those who are dependent on social grants, and those who also need placement, but are not dependent on social grants and have the ability to pay their way? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I just want to correct the hon member, hon Speaker, through you. I did not say there was no database. I said there was no centrally administered database. But there is a database at each of the 113 facilities. I am going to use the one that I recently visited in Laingsburg.

They have got open space, so hon member Marais referred to those that are maybe not SASSA dependent. We can connect individuals to all of the old age homes. The problem is sometimes people only want to live in a certain area,

and some of that might be oversubscribed.

But when we have queries like this, we put them in contact with the different organisations. There are 113 that we fund in the province, and then we connect the individuals. So if the member has a question around the database, we can pull the records, but that is not centrally administered, like when we do the placement of our children. That is a centrally administered database.

But there, we only manage 55 organisations. That is our NPO-run CYCCs, and then also our secure care facilities. I think I tried to cover both parts of what hon Marais asked. But if you want any specific area, the database, we can pull those records through the NPOs. Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes Question No. 11. We now move over to Question No. 1 under new questions. Hon Herron, is that a point of order?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): It is, hon Speaker, but I did not mean to stand before you finished speaking.

The SPEAKER: No, you can continue, because I was just going to move over to the first question. So, if you have a point of order.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Yes, thank you, hon Speaker. I would like you to rule on whether Question No. 1 complies with Rule 202 subsection 3, that a

question for oral reply may not contain more than five subdivisions. I have had several questions returned to me, because as soon as you introduce. If so, I have been informed that that introduces an additional subdivision. So if the Rules are going to be applied consistently, then this oral question has six subdivisions. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. In the interest of, I am just going to get Procedural Guidance, in the interests of your point of order, can I then move on to Question No. 2, and then we can come back to Question No. 2, if that is in order with the House? Thank you very much. We will then move on to Question No. 2. Minister Londt?

New questions:

Children: mandate to protect

2. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander asked the Minister of Social Development:

(a) What concrete measures is his department implementing to strengthen its own internal capacity to fulfil its constitutional mandate to protect children and (b) how will it ensure that the increasing demand does not further strain an already overburdened nonprofit sector?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker.

The question from hon Kaizer-Philander: what concrete measures is the

department implementing to strengthen its own internal capacity to fulfil its constitutional mandate to protect children and (b) how will it ensure that the increasing demand does not further strain an already overburdened nonprofit sector?

Hon Speaker, the Organisational Development Process to review and strengthen the organisational structure in certain areas where the Department of Social Development needs to address capacity within the different regions has been finalised and approved.

The newly approved posts will now be advertised. Any increase in capacity can only be implemented within the department's existing budget allocations, and remains subject to the restrictions imposed by DPSA regarding the expansion of the Government workforce.

The department's capacity has also been impacted by the early retirement options recently introduced by the National Government. The first phase of this process has now been concluded, and DSD will proceed with the necessary recruitment process to fill the affected positions.

The rollout of the SWIMS Application among Departmental staff to improve caseload management efficiency and reduce administrative burden on staff, is at an advanced stage. All of these, these frontline social workers, are now using SWIMS, and they have a collective total of over 113 cases active on the system.

The system is now also being extended to Child Protection NPOs, Department of Health and Wellness, and the Western Cape Education Department, to further improve integration and efficiency of interdepartmental and intersectoral Child Protection work.

The second part of the question. The Department of Social Development, referred to as the department, acknowledges the increasing demand for services, and the existing pressures faced by the non-profit sector. In response, the department is reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the non-profit sector by implementing several targeted interventions to mitigate and alleviate further strain on the Designated Child Protection Organisations, DCPOs, in the Western Cape.

The department manages its partnership with the non-profit sector in a manner that promotes transparency, fairness and long-term sustainability. This includes advocating for increased budget allocations, implementing a unified and standardised funding process, and ensuring the timely disbursements of funds, thereby enabling Designated Child Protection Organisations to be adequately resourced to consistently meet service delivery demands.

All Designated Child Protection Organisations have been allocated an overall increased funding allocation for the 2026/2027 financial year. In addition, the department provides supplementary financial support, including ad hoc bail out funding to DCPOs on a needs-basis, and subject

to the availability of funds.

The department is further strengthening its monitoring and support mechanisms to ensure that Designated Child Protection Organisations receive not only effective oversight, but also clear policy direction, developmental guidance and support. The provincial department conducts monitoring and evaluation through scheduled onsite visits, as well as recently introduced unannounced visits to DCPOs to ensure Legislative compliance, address service delivery and governance issues, enable better planning, and ensure that funding is directed where it has the greatest impact.

On these visits, Designated Child Protection Organisations provide the department with comprehensive insights into its achievements as well as its challenges. The department promotes partnerships and collaboration between Government, the non-profit sector and other stakeholders to enhance coordination, avoid duplication of services, and optimise the impact of available resources.

This is supported with clear roles, responsibilities, referral pathways and transfer payment agreements, so that the demand for services is managed more evenly with partners and stakeholders across the province. The provincial department also convenes quarterly forum meetings with Designated Child Protection Organisations and key stakeholders, providing a strategic platform to deliberate and implementation

challenges, and agree on appropriate resolutions at a higher level.

The department thus seeks to sustain, strengthen working relationships with DCPOs and stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure that services are responsive and relevant to the needs of vulnerable groups.

Hon Speaker, I am just going to take a sip. †Dis 'n mondvol. [It's a mouthful.] Thank you.

The department invests in ongoing capacity building initiatives, including training, governance, support and compliance assistance to enhance the institutional strength and service delivery of the non-profit sector. Regular training on the Provisions of the Children's Act, policies, standard operating procedures, trafficking of unaccompanied minor children and other legislation, for example, to assist the sector to deliver services in line with the legislative prescripts.

The department also reviewed the administrative process with reporting tools to ease the administrative burden on organisations, by gradually introducing the Social Work Integrated Management System, allowing organisations to focus on service delivery rather than compliance-related demands.

The department further provides additional operational support to assume responsibility for service delivery as a last resort in instances where Designated Child Protection Organisations are unable to manage, or lack

the capacity to render services, often due to financial constraints.

Lastly, there is a continued focus on expanding prevention and early intervention programmes, which will help manage the demand for statutory interventions, and reduce pressure on Designated Child Protection Organisations, providing statutory and crisis service.

Through these interventions, the department aims to create a more enabling, supportive and sustainable environment for the non-profit sector to effectively deliver critical services to the communities. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon Kaizer-Philander.

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Baie dankie, agbare Speaker. Ek sien die agb Minister het die antwoord baie ver gaan haal, so ver as wat ek hierdie vraag gaan haal het, om baie te kon vra binne hierdie vraag, maar agb Minister het baie gedek. Baie dankie daarvoor.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I see the hon Minister fetched the question from very far, as far I have gone to fetch this question, to ask a lot within this question, but the hon Minister has

covered a lot. Thank you for that.]

Hon Minister, you made mention about the partnerships with the sector, with the NPO sector. You have also made mention of the funding increases. So obviously, we welcome that. So my question will then be, hon Speaker, how will these funding models that the Minister has made reference to for non-profit partners being reviewed, how are they being reviewed, and reviewed to ensure that they are adequate, as well as inflation adjusted? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, through you, as I mentioned in the answer, we have given increases to all the DCPOs. It is impossible for us to deliver services as Government alone. That is why we are quite proud of the work that NGOs are doing in the province. We are advocates for making sure that they get above inflation increases.

It is not always possible. Some get a higher percentage than others, but on average, there was a 4% increase. Where we do find that some of the organisations struggle, we try and step in. Recently, we took over 700 cases from one organisation here within the City of Cape Town, and why was that possible?

That is because we have lessened the administrative burden on our social

workers to free up more time to do the interventions. There is unfortunately another organisation that we had to withdraw their DCPO status in one of the towns, because we found that the services were not done to the expected standards.

There again, the department is stepping in, but there are also examples of DCPOs that do much more. That is why we are unashamedly advocating for the support of these organisations. We are going out of our way to support them, not through from the department alone, but also funding, finding alternative sources. Next week, we will be handing over Smart devices to one of these organisations that do Child Protection work, to then also get them on the SWIMS Application.

So, it's not a one size fits all. There is also not just one answer that will address this problem. But the one thing that we are unequivocal about is that we need to make sure that we strengthen the NGO space, because if it's only when we take hands together, that whole-of-society approach, that we can make sure that we have – what did I say? There were 113 000 active cases on the SWIMS Act, and not one of those cases fall through the cracks. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any further questions, follow-up questions? If not that brings us to the end of Question 2.

Hon members, can I just ask that we stop the clock. Hon member Herron, based

on your point of order. I have verified and I have checked the Rules and the Question Paper as printed, and Question number 1 complies with Rule 202 in terms of our Standing Rules, and for that reason I am going to allow the Minister to respond. Hon Minister Marais.

Provincial Commissioner, SAPS: appointment of

1. Ms B M van Minnen asked the Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

- (1) What formal role does her Department play in the process of appointing a new Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS;
- (2) whether the national Minister of Police has formally consulted her, as required in terms of section 207(3) of the Constitution; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) what is the status of the appointment process;
- (4) whether she has received any written communication from the national executive in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you, hon member Van Minnen, for this question.

The Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety does not have a direct decision making role in the appointment of a Provincial Commissioner of SAPS. Its role is to provide input by making submissions and comments to the Premier regarding the suitability of any proposed candidate.

Hon Premier Alan Winde, as head of the Provincial Executive, has officially been notified in writing, by the now suspended National Police Commissioner, of the impending expiring of Lieutenant-General Patekile's employment contract and the intention not to extend his term of office.

The hon Premier has further been informed that the post of Provincial Commissioner will be advertised in due course and that further consultation will follow as part of the process. The hon Premier has only been informed of the upcoming vacancy and the intention to advertise the position, with further steps in the process still to unfold.

Lastly, I have not received any written communication from the National Executive regarding the appointment of a Provincial Commissioner. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. If I could please ask what the time periods are with this in terms of when we can expect this process to start to unfold and to also resolve itself? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you. Hon member Van Minnne, I am not sure what the time period will be but I am concerned because General Patekile's contract is ending at the end of June. I have heard that they did advertise the post but I have not seen it.

So for me it is of utmost urgency that we appoint a Provincial Commissioner as soon as possible. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much. Given what was said about the further consultation that will still follow, is there any idea how long this process is likely to take given what has happened in the past? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Well, I have to say, hon member Van Minnen, that you know what is going on at National and SAPS and all the ad hoc committees and investigations. Hopefully it will be a month, but I foresee that will be almost three months. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. Through

you, can I just check with the hon Minister, given that you consistently indicate that policing is a national competence, does the National Minister have an obligation to inform you about the hiring of a Provincial Commissioner?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you for the question. There is an obligation to inform the Premier about the National Commissioner's process. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, and the last opportunity, hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker and hon MEC. Hon MEC, do you have an interest on who should be appointed as the next Provincial Commissioner?

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, did you ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you. Thank you. I would like to have interest, but, no, I do not have any interest at this moment. We will see which names they put forward and work from that. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Question number 1. We move on to Question number 3. I recognise the hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. As per the agreement between the relevant questioners and the Ministers, Questions number 3, 4 and 9 will kindly stand over as per those agreements. Sorry, Questions number 3, 4 and 10 on the Green Paper.

[Questions 3, 4 and 10 stand over.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. I then move on to Question number 5 on the Question Paper. I recognise the hon Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers.

Housing development: parcels of land

5. Mr B N Herron asked the Minister of Infrastructure:

With reference to land released for the purpose of housing development:

(a) How many parcels of land have been released in the last 18 months for the purpose of housing development, (b) in what stage of the development process are these parcels of land, (c) how much funding is being allocated to each parcel of land for development, (d) what is the timeline for development on these parcels and (e) how many social housing units, if any, are being proposed?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker. Through you to hon member Herron.

The (a) part of your question is five parcels of land have been released in the last 18 months for the purposes of housing development.

The (b) part of your question. Leeuloop is now at the developer appointed stage. Founders Garden is in the developer procurement stage. Number 10 on Fort Wynyard, or commonly known as Helen Bowden, is now at our pre-disposal consultation phase. The Provincial Pavement Testing Lab is now at the developer procurement stage. 353 On Main, formerly known as Tafelberg Site, it is now in the land use management and heritage statutory process stage.

The (c) part of your question is that project specific budgets are not allocated, as the department must fund the varying costs of obtaining the necessary development rights and of taking the development to market.

The (d) part of your question. It takes three years following handover to the developer.

The (e) part of your question, in terms of how many social housing units, if any, are being proposed for Leeuloop 363; for Founders Garden 1 185; for 10 on Fort Wynyard 302; in terms of the Provincial Pavement Testing Lab, it will be affordable rental only; and 353 On Main will be 220. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon Minister for the reply. My follow-up question to the hon Minister is how many of the social housing units that are proposed on these sites are funded?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Indeed I understand the hon member's question given that SHRA itself has funding constraints and I will be able to provide the hon member and the House a detailed written response, hon Speaker, with your permission, given that I have to go into the data of each project and where we are in terms of the SHRA allocations. If that is in order with the House and the hon member. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. There are 13 seconds left, so I am going to ask hon member Wessels, who is the next questioner, to unfortunately not pose it because you will not have an opportunity to respond.

Hon members, that brings us to the end of Oral Questions or Questions for Oral Reply. Hon members, outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard and we now move on to Questions to the Premier without Notice in terms of Rule 204.

I wish to remind hon members that there are two follow-ups per the hon member posing the question, which relates to the original question, for reply.

Hon members, perhaps just before I recognise hon member Sayed, I just need to inform the House that the Acting Premier is hon Minister Meyer. So the questions will be posed to the Acting Premier in terms of the Rules. Hon member Sayed.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, thank you very much, and we congratulate the Acting Premier, Dr Meyer, and the former National Leader of the DA, on his appointment as the Acting Premier. [Interjection.]

Hon Speaker, the hon member Van Minnen, earlier in the sitting, reminded us that five people are killed a day in the Western Cape.

Now in light of the National Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategies requirement that the Office of the Premier must be capacitated to coordinate, monitor and to look at the actual implementation of the strategy in the province, can the hon Acting Premier inform this House what specific steps have been taken to fulfil this role in the Western Cape? Whether the Office of the Premier has dedicated capacity, budget and monitoring systems for this purpose? I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Acting Premier.

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): Thank you, hon Speaker, for the question. We are dealing with questions to the Premier without notice in relation to crime and capacity but we all know what the situation is in terms of crime in the Western Cape.

While the Western Cape can intervene where possible in terms of the role of the Premier and, by extension, the role of this Executive through the MEC for Police Oversight and Community Safety, the Premier's Office has on numerous occasions dealt with this matter in terms of the national competencies of the South African Police, and they suffer from a multitude of issues; ranging from resource allocations within the South African Police to a complete collapse of the detection and investigative capacities.

I have also had an opportunity this afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker, to look at the 2025 parliamentary reply in terms of the vacancy rate within the South African Police. It now sits at an average 12.39% vacancy rate across the Western Cape stations, with only 12 908 active South African police members operationally deployed to stations. This is a matter of serious concern.

The hon Premier and the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety are on record. They have established an inter-ministerial committee to look into this particular matter, where the South African Police, the senior managers, as well as the – in fact it happened less than 10 days ago, I have seen

General Patekile here, where these matters of the capacity within the police are discussed. The matters relating to the Office of the Premier, the hon Premier is chairing some of these activities most of the time, engaged with the South African Police Service, and what we have seen is that between 2016 and 2023 South Africa has lost more than 8 400 qualified detectives from the ranks of the South African Police Service. The Western Cape sees South Africa's highest number of vacancies in this regard with 902 vacancies for detectives in this province, and, hon Deputy Speaker, this has resulted in a situation in which detectives are expected to handle more than double the international benchmark of active dockets.

Internationally a detective must deal with about 60 dockets, and these are matters that the hon Premier also brought to the table because in a parliamentary reply he indicated that the caseload per detective frequently ranges into the triple figures, especially in high crime areas. Some of the worst include De Doorns, a detective dealing with 216 cases, whereas the international norm is 60 dockets. Lingeletu West, one single detective dealing with 271 dockets right here, 20 minutes from where we are now. In Maitland a single detective is dealing with 439 dockets, and in Samora Machel 367.

Once again there are serious matters of concern, which the hon Premier, under his leadership, is ... the question was also the resources. If there is one matter that takes the most resources, and time is a resource, time and energy; an allocation of resources, also dealing with the LEAP officers, are presented through the Office of the Premier, and we have seen that the detection rates in

2024 stood at 37.25% for attempted murder and 7.04% for murder. To oversimplify this, hon Deputy Speaker, you have more than a 92% chance of getting away with murder in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, one of the resources that has been used in this Government, which I have consulted earlier today, which the hon Minister discussed in length, bringing it to the Cabinet, and that is a resource of the hon Premier, and I have consulted earlier today, the Western Cape Police Needs and Priorities Report of 2025. The question is always asked what is the Premier doing, and so the hon Premier has tabled in the Cabinet, together with the hon Minister, some real recommendations and findings in terms of the police needs and priorities.

So the hon Premier spends most of his time on the implementation of the Western Cape Safety Plan and the role of law enforcement officials. He made the recommendations about strengthening Neighbourhood Watches, which is the primary concern of the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety. The hon Premier instructed both of us to work extensively in the area of rural safety. We will come soon to the Western Cape Cabinet with a rural safety strategy.

Hon Deputy Speaker, you will appreciate that the hon Premier has engaged with the newly appointed US Ambassador. A single item that was discussed is technology applications to fast-track developments within the rural safety space. I was returning yesterday from Pretoria. I am planning to visit him soon

in Pretoria in relation to technology because he made it absolutely clear they want to assist us in this particular regard.

The Community Safety forums are part of the empowerment programme from the hon Premier, and the hon Premier has discussed also some specific police interventions.

So for us this is important. The hon Premier's biggest role in this regard, he always tells us show us the data and the evidence for the strategy. Resources today, we cannot allow to be everywhere and that is why we have targeted interventions at certain places, following a data and evidence-based approach.

So whenever the release of quarterly crime statistics is done, one of the things of this Government is to interrogate the data, redeploy some of the resources to where it is needed, and we also make recommendations to the South African Police.

So data is a resource. The capacity in the Office of the Premier is focussing specifically on reducing the levels of crime but this is not an exclusive mandate of the hon Premier. I am also armed with developments that we have seen in terms of the LEAP officers.

As you know, through the hon Premier's initiative and the hon Minister, we have funded about 1 200 LEAP officers between 2020 and 2025. These units have made more than 48 000 arrests, of which 1 222 were related to illegal

firearms. We also had other direct initiatives, which include the K9 and the Rural Safety Units, peace officers and upstream prevention initiatives, such as the MOD Centre of hon Minister Mackenzie, as well as the Year Beyond programmes, the Chrysalis Academy, the Gender-Based Violence Ambassador Programme and the Chrysalis Academy.

However, to conclude, hon Deputy Speaker, on this matter, initiatives represent instances in which the Western Cape Government has already exceeded its mandate. There is no other Provincial Government that went almost beyond its mandate in terms of this particular function here in South Africa. Although this is not a function primarily in terms of the Constitution to allocate resources, we went to allocate resources because we believe the safety of the citizens of this province comes first.

So the hon Premier and the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety spend most of their time and their resources in focussing on this particular matter because you cannot grow the economy when crime is out of control.

Just before I started to answer the questions, I referred to the Madlanga Commission. We have made representations at the Khayelitsha Commission previously. To that Khayelitsha Commission we have made certain recommendations. In fact, to hon members of this House, we declared a dispute and you will know that one member of this House, a previous MEC, Albert Fritz, was involved, based on that dispute that we declared in terms of the

resource allocations to deal with this matter of crime; it is a serious matter in this House and in this province.

The Premier requested the hon member at the time, Albert Fritz, to engage with the South African Police, which he did at the time, also engaging with the then Minister of Police, Bheki Cele. [Interjection.] Based on that – †ek is dors, al † bietjie hees. Gee net † kansie. [I am thirsty – already a bit hoarse. Just give me a little chance.]

So through that engagement there was an agreement to see if we can work together because a court has ruled that the South African Police Service has done an injustice to this province. This is a court ruling. An injustice in terms of the allocation of resources to this province and the latest data shows and proves that this matter will now be dealt with in the court at the end of next month, which is June 2026.

We are worried that we engage on a continuous basis with the Police Minister, but when we go back to that Police Minister, hon member, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, that Police Minister, as you know, when we go back it is †delolo [nothing], a new one is there.

So we are concerned. So the hon Premier also engages with the President about this particular matter. He frequently meets the President at the PCC, which is the President Coordinating Council, part of that responsibility.

The question was, what are the resources? Engaging with the President is a resource. It is time and energy, but apart from that, the financial resources, the hon Premier also dedicated officials in his own department to conduct research into this matter and so, in my humble opinion, we have done everything possible, starting with the police needs and priority.

There is no other provincial department in South Africa that has a police needs and priorities. Here is the report of 2025, here are the recommendations and the Khayelitsha Commission activities. I am very happy that we are doing everything possible, but when we get the reports of what the South African Police are doing we do not see significant at-scale-reduction in crime.

I know, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, my friend of over 20 years, hon member Christians, he speaks frequently about crime.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Acting Premier, are you able to take your seat?
The clock will be stopped.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I rise on a point of order. The relevance. The hon Acting Premier and former DA Leader and representative to Taiwan, has not spoken to what was asked in the question. The ICVPS was what was posed. He has not responded at all to that. He must not waste the time of residents and hon members of this House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, although I am unable to adjudicate

on the subject and the content of the reply, I will state at this time there is now 4:04 minutes remaining and I will allow the hon Acting Premier to continue.

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): Hon Deputy Speaker ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Acting Premier, please take your seat.

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): I am happy to do so, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Ngqentsu?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I am concerned about your ruling, hon Deputy Speaker, on the point raised by hon member Sayed. Whether it is in the best interest of our people and this Parliament, or is it in the best interest of a leading party in this House? As he made the point that he is not responding to the question, but he wants to chow time. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I definitely take note of the view of hon member Sayed. However in this particular 20 minutes for me to ultimately adjudicate would be unfair. The hon Acting Premier is responding to the question, he has interpreted the question and there are processes to follow. So in that vein I will allow the hon Acting Premier to continue.

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon

member of the ACDP has frequently raised, linked to this question, the issue of safety of children.

It is under the leadership of this hon Premier, our hon MEC for Police Oversight and Community Safety and the hon Minister of Education, that our Safety Plan, school safety, is focussing on trying to promote safety at schools.

So resources are allocated to this particular function to make sure that we are safe. Resources from this Government were also used for the establishment of the Khayelitsha Commission, as you will know, and new officials should be appointed to fill vacancies which exist in the South African Police Service. These new officials need to be continuously trained.

Flowing from the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry and the Equality Court case, it is recommended that the South African Police urgently design a new human resource allocation system that allows for the equitable allocation of resources to areas which need it the most. In this regard the hon Premier made some specific recommendations and we believe that the Police Commissioner must act in this particular regard.

There are high levels of South African Police absenteeism. It should be investigated and the root causes addressed. SAPS currently reports on a highly, fully-fledged operational SAP system in employment, including those who have been disciplined and given a Section 102 sanction, which does not allow them to carry a firearm and impacts their ability to act as a fully-fledged SAPS

member. It is recommended that SAPS reports on the number of officials with the sanction when it reports on its human resources strength.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the resources that we put into this function of community safety is so extensive. It goes way beyond this. We have even involved technical assistance from the Bavarian State Government, technical cooperation between the Bavaria Government, the Western Cape Government, municipalities and Community Safety.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Acting Premier ...[Interjection.]

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): That is our engagement ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...can you please take your seat? The clock will be stopped. The hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, this is now becoming laughable and unacceptable. Clearly the hon, whatever we call him, Acting Premier, does not take crime seriously and does not take the Office of the Premier seriously. We asked a specific question. He has not responded to the specific question, nothing about the Office of the Premier with regard to the ICVPS.

Really, your ruling, I want to say that we take serious exception to your ruling

and I rose on a Rule on the issue of relevance and it was not addressed, but I understand this is more about party politicking ahead of the Local Government Elections, cheap politics, and not the lives of people being gunned down in the Western Cape in the Cape Flats. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed. Like I have indicated earlier on, a question was posed and the hon Acting Premier is then on the floor in order to answer that particular question. There is now one minute and four seconds remaining.

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): Hon Deputy Speaker, it is live on national television ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Acting Premier, please take your seat. Are you rising on a new point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): It is a related point of order because if the hon Acting Premier does not take himself seriously at least he should take this House seriously because the hon member who posed the question has the constitutional right to also pose a follow-up question, and he does all of this so that we can have a problem of time and that he does not have time to respond or to ask a follow-up question.

You, as the Presiding Officer, where is discretion, where is logic and where is common sense?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In our approach – are you... [Incomplete.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, in fact you, I want to address you, hon Deputy Speaker, as a former MEC of Community Safety, and I know when you were standing in that seat over there you responded, you gave hon members the opportunity to engage because they had experiences. You were serious about addressing crime. Clearly these ones here are not serious, especially the hon Acting Premier.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You should have ruled, because in fact you are facilitating the undermining of democracy in the Western Cape. I want to put that on record.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed. I see the hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon member is in violation of Rule 66(5). You have made a ruling and that ruling is final. If the hon member wants to challenge the ruling he has the appropriate mechanisms in place to do that, but standing up and shouting and screaming at us, it is not going to help us moving forward.

So, please, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, if the hon member can respect

the Rules and if you could just make sure that your ruling is adhered to.
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You are not serious about crime, you are playing politics here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, [Interjections.] I have noted the points of order and the inputs raised. We have noted the comments made from outside and in sitting in this particular chair. When an hon member rises there is a person that is on the floor and that particular hon member is also listening to the inputs. I am unable to direct any particular hon member, an hon Minister or any hon member, on how to respond or on what to respond.

Hence that engagements can continue, but there are processes that one can follow. I am unable to inform the hon Acting Premier on what he needs to say. He is currently in that particular role, but there are further avenues.

I see hon member Nkondlo and hon member Bans. I have stopped the clock in order to not allow the clock to continue, but I will take the two hands in that order. Hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Is it parliamentary that the only option that the House gets to put questions to the

hon Premier without notice, that they get to be abused because only one question is allowed without even a follow-up, let alone other hon members who would have been given an opportunity in this House under fairness, if we just use fairness.

Here is a time about to end without any other hon member having had the opportunity, which is a rare opportunity, to put questions to the hon Premier without notice, so that we understand the affairs of this province?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Nkondlo. Hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, mine is on the Rule that hon member Sayed was making. You have not ruled on the point of relevance. Can you please give us a ruling on that one? I have not heard you responding to that. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Bans, thank you so much. As I have attentively listened to the response and especially key words in terms of the resources, I can understand the response, but sitting in this chair, in a 20 minute period ultimately for me to then inform the hon Minister or the hon Acting Premier that that is not relevant or has relevance, will ultimately stop the engagement. Hence I will not delve into that particular space. Hence I have stated that the hon Minister can continue. He has also heard clearly the points of order that were raised.

Hon members, this might be an ideal opportunity as well. Just a few hours ago, yesterday, the Rules Committee also engaged and I need to follow the Rules in terms of the time period. Political parties and hon members are more than welcome to then provide amendments to the Rules so that these particular matters can be ventilated properly.

Furthermore, the comments made, and I definitely heard what hon member Nkondlo said as well. If hon member Nkondlo has that particular view, hon members in this House, not everyone will agree with that particular view. Other hon members here might feel that the hon Acting Premier has adequately responded to the question.

An HON MEMBER: He has not responded.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, hon Acting Premier? [Interjections.]

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): Hon Deputy Speaker, if you ask a question the answer will be given to you extensively within the Rules of Parliament. Can I just refresh the mind of hon members of this House? Because the question was about the powers and functions of the Premier.

The powers and functions of the Premier are described in Section 127 of the Constitution and it says:

“The Premier of a province has the powers and functions entrusted to it

by the Constitution to amend any legislation. The Premier of a province is responsible for setting and signing...” ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Acting Premier, please take your seat. There are 26 seconds. You are rising on a new point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to put on record now my point of order is in terms of Rule 44. The hon Acting Premier is misleading the House. That was not my question, what he referred to now, and Rule 44 says, I want to read it.

“When a member persists in irrelevance or repetition of arguments, the Presiding Officer may call attention to that conduct and may then direct the member to stop speaking.”

Practically this means, hon Deputy Speaker, that an hon member must speak to the matter before the House, which he is not doing. The Rules also say that an hon member may speak to the question before the House, amendments, a point of order or question of privilege. None of this has happened. In fact, he has even re-emphasised now, hence I am rising on a new point of order, because he is referring to something which I have not even asked.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): Hon ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Before I respond I see the hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, if my ears are serving me correctly, the hon member that just cited Rule 44 is actually in violation of that very Rule with this constant behaviour of standing up and interrupting an hon member as they are trying to answer. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, [Interjections.] hon members, there are 26 seconds remaining to this particular Rule in terms of 204, Questions to the Premier without Notice. This is a political debate and in political debates I can understand that the emotions can become extremely high.

So I would want us to remain orderly so that we are able to proceed with the business of the day, but I will note you and we will stop the clock still.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, two issues here. I want to rise on a point of order against the hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party. The Chief Whip is online. Where is your hon Premier? I can ask. Sorry, where is his hon Premier?

Hon Deputy Speaker, a point of order is not we RE WORRIED. You recognised me when I raised my hand. I was able to speak. I did not disrupt the hon Acting Premier. The hon Chief Whip of the Democratic Alliance is misleading the House by saying that I have been disrupting the speaker. That is incorrect.

Number two, I think on this point, last week I felt differently, but I want to commend the hon member Walters now *in absentia* for not supporting the hon Minister Meyer in the DA Congress. [Interjections.] I can now really see why I respect the hon member Walters deeply.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon members, I will definitely apply my mind in terms of the two points of orders and revert back to the House if need be. There are now 26 seconds remaining.

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): Hon Deputy Speaker, the question that was raised had to do with the functions and the responsibilities and the mandate of the Premier. Those functions are defined in the Constitution and it is clear that this hon member does not want to recognise the constitutional provisions of the Premier as contained in 127.

If I read this correctly:

“The functions and the responsibilities of the Premier...” [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Acting Premier, your time has expired in this debate. Can you please take your seat?

The ACTING PREMIER (Mr I H MEYER): ...in this debate. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please take your seat.

An HON MEMBER: Your time is up, man. Your time is up. You have just wasted our time. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I now understand why [Inaudible.] walk out of the DA Congress.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that is the end of questions to the Premier. I see that there is a point of order before we proceed in terms of Rule 145. I see the hon member Adams.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to congratulate the hon Acting Premier for being a good actor. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon members, we will proceed in terms of Rule 145 and I now recognise the DA.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, our country is being held back by deliberate structural failures that have reversed decades of progress.

In 2008 national unemployment stood at 21,5%. By late 2025 that figure had climbed to a staggering 31,4%. This decline is the result of a State hollowed

from within. BBBEE and cadre deployment disguised as empowerment programmes have systematically destroyed world-class institutions. Eskom is one of the clearest examples, collapsing from an energy availability factor of 90% to barely 55%. The Port of Cape Town is another. The result is soaring electricity tariffs and freight costs that punish every household, farmer and business. Rising global oil prices are now compounding the pain and choking economic recovery.

BBBEE has become a patronage pipeline for the ANC politically connected elite. If we are serious about growth we must confront the structural failures at the heart of our economic decline. [Interjections.] We must end the era of political loyalty and restore merit, competence and accountability. [Interjections.] The DA seeks all hon members in this House to support DA's Economic Inclusion Bill to scrap BBBEE and replace it with a poverty target procurement system.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we must acknowledge that the ANC's decisions are the reasons for our current predicament. Those who sit in the Opposition benches must own the failures of their leaders instead of heckling those working to fix the mess. [Interjections.] The ANC's priority is no longer the people of South Africa, but the protection of cushy political positions. [Interjections.]

Our problems are structural, but they are fixable. It is time for voters to use the X wisely and vote the ANC out. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I recognise the African National Congress. We will arrange the podium. The movement of the podium may have settled some of the emotions. Hon members, on your first word, the clock will commence.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I rise to draw the attention of this House to the Orange Level 8 severe weather warning affecting parts of the Garden Route District and to the devastating impact already being felt by communities.

This is no longer a warning on paper, it has already resulted in the tragic loss of a life and we also wish to offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of Lauren Fredericks, a social worker; damage to property and severe hardship for residents living in informal settlements, where families are exposed to flooding, cold, unsafe structures and displacements.

Residents in George, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay and other vulnerable communities in the Garden Route are looking to this Government for urgent leadership, shelter and clear communication. On Tuesday morning I wrote to hon Premier Winde calling for urgent provincial intervention - he is not here today - coordinated disaster management and immediate support for affected communities. Apart from acknowledging receipt the hon Premier has failed to provide a substantive response. This is deeply disappointing and disheartening. It creates the impression that because the hon Premier is comfortable and protected, he does not fully appreciate the fear and uncertainty facing poor and

working class communities.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We are also concerned that the George Mayor advised residents to seek shelter with family and friends, instead of ensuring that municipal halls and safe public facilities are open for evacuation, warmth and protection. [Interjections.] The reality is that many of those families live in the very same vulnerable conditions as those seeking refuge. This moment requires visible leadership, coordination and action, not silence, distance and excuses. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed. I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, today I rise with deep humility and gratitude as we reflect on the sacred gift of motherhood in anticipation of Mother's Day.

Motherhood is not only a role, it is a calling ordained by God. In the Book of Proverbs we are reminded:

“She is clothed with strength and dignity. She can laugh at the days to come.”

These words echo the spirit of every mother who rises daily, often unseen and uncelebrated, to nurture, protect and guide her children.

Across our nation, from the busy streets of our cities to the quiet corners of our rural communities, mothers are the backbone of our society. They are the first teachers, the silent warriors and the keepers of hope. They carry not only the weight of their families, but often the burdens of poverty, inequality and hardship. Yet they continue to love without condition.

Let us also remember the mothers who have had to endure unimaginable pain, those who have lost children, those raising children in difficult circumstances and those who stand in the gap as grandmothers, aunts and caregivers. Their strength is a testimony of faith, their resilience reflects the grace of God.

As scripture teaches us in Isaiah:

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has born?”

Even in the powerful question we are reminded that a mother's love mirrors the very compassion of our Creator. Hon members, if we are to build a just and prosperous South Africa we must honour, uplift and support our mothers, not only with words, but with action. This means strengthening social support systems, ensuring access to healthcare, protecting women from violence and creating opportunities where mothers can thrive with dignity.

Let us be clear, when we empower a mother, we uplift a family, when we uplift a family we strengthen a community, and when communities are strong our nation stands firm.

To every mother listening today, biological ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you ...[Interjections.]

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): ...adoptive ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon – kindly wrap up the final sentence.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Okay. Spiritual or those who have stepped into the role through love and sacrifice, we say we see you, we honour you and we thank you. Your prayers, your tears, your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. God sees your labour of love. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members.

An HON MEMBER: For the †*mammas* [mothers].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

An HON MEMBER: All the †[*mammas*] mothers. [Interjections.]

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, last week the people of George, and more specifically the residents of Uniondale, once again placed their trust in the Democratic Alliance during the Ward 25 bi-election. More than 1 000 residents [Interjections.] placed their vote next to the DA. More than double the support received in the same ward during the 2021 Local Government Elections. [Interjections.]

So why did the people vote for the DA? Because they can see delivery where it happens most. †Die mense van Uniondale het vir die DA gestem omdat hulle kan sien waar hulle geld werk. Hulle het gestem vir dienslewering wat hulle daaglikse lewens verbeter. [Tussenwerpsels.] [The people of Uniondale voted for the DA because they can see where their money is effective. They voted for service delivery that improves their daily lives. [Interjecions.]]

For the 26/27 financial year George Municipality allocated R3 million to the upgrades of the Uniondale sewer network and R10 million for road improvements. These include Hospital Street, Victoria Street, Aberdeen Street and Gardiner Street.

The people also voted for the DA because we invest in our communities. In the 25/26 financial year the George Municipality allocated R50 000 to the Uniondale United for support of the local sport clubs, while hon Minister Mackenzie in this House handed over sporting equipment to the local teams in Uniondale earlier this year.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, onder die DA in George vir die 2026/2027 finansiële jaar is gratis basiese elektrisiteit vir kwalifiserende huishoudings verhoog van 70 na 80 eenhede per maand, terwyl die nasionale norm slegs 50 eenhede is.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, under the DA in George free basic electricity was increased for the 2026/2027 financial year for qualifying households from 70 to 80 units per month, while the national norm is only 50 units.]

The DA also understands that transport costs remain a barrier to employment. That is why the Western Cape Government is expanding the Jobseeker Travel Voucher Programme to George, with over R5 million allocated to provide free transport for jobseekers attending interviews.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you ...[Interjections.]

†Mnr D J WESSELS (DA): Dis hoekom die mense vir die DA stem. [Mr D J Wessels (DA): That is why the people are voting for the DA.] Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Wessels. I recognise the EFF.

†n AGB LID: Hulle is nie hier nie.

[An HON MEMBER: They are not here.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF would like to take this

opportunity to condemn the recent spike in gun violence within the province. This follows the latest incident that took place in Elsies River where five people were shot, resulting in a 39-year-old female losing her life, whilst four others were left wounded in a separate incident.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the common feature about these latest incidents is that they take place in broad daylight and in public spaces where innocent civilians, including children, are present. The majority of the victims are also caught in the crossfire as opposed to being the direct targets of perpetrators.

Hon Deputy Speaker, gun violence is so intense in the Western Cape to such an extent that it should be declared as an emergency provincial disaster in need of an urgent intervention. The escalation of these incidents is further made worse by skewed police to population ratio in the Western Cape, more so within the City of Cape Town Municipality where violent crime is so rampant.

Just two years ago, on 30 August 2024, the now suspended Minister of Police, together with the hon Premier of this Province and the City of Cape Town Acting Mayor at the time, Edwin Andrews, formally signed the Western Cape Cooperation Agreement for Safety and Policing in Belhar. The agreement was meant to be an alliance that would seek cooperation between the South African Police Service alongside the City of Cape Town law enforcement in tackling the scourge of crime in the Western Cape. However, since then nothing much has changed. As a matter of fact, the crime rate in the province continues to increase in real terms.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this prompted the National President to deploy the military to the Western Cape and even with such deployment people are still murdered in our streets and in broad daylight on a daily basis. This clearly indicates that the Government of National Unity has failed together with the Western Cape Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town in tackling crime.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Cassiem. I recognise the NCC. We proceed. I recognise the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The rising cost of living in the Western Cape is [Inaudible.] abstract economic concern, it is a daily crisis confronting the working class families who are being pushed deeper into poverty. The DA must be kept accountable for that.

Research shows that more than half of households in Cape Town are food insecure, not because food is unavailable, but because it is unaffordable. Families are skipping meals, reducing nutritional intake and making impossible choices between transport, electricity and food. The DA must be kept accountable for that.

This crisis is made worse by structural cost pressures in our province. Housing, transport and municipal services in Cape Town are among the most expensive in the country. For many households these costs consume the bulk of their

income before a single meal is secured.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the recent High Court judgement against the City of Cape Town confirms what our people have long experienced. The court found that the City imposed unlawful fixed charges for water, sanitation and cleaning charges that were not based on consumption and violated the law. This is not a technical matter, it is a direct admission that the City has been overburdening residents and contributing to the high cost of living.

We therefore call on the Provincial Government and the municipalities to act decisively. Tariff structures must be fair, lawful and pro-poor. Municipalities must prioritise affordability, not revenue extraction from struggling households.

Finally, hon Deputy Speaker, the escalating conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran will worsen this crisis. Rising oil prices will drive up transport costs, food prices and taxi fares. It is the poor who feels it the most and most severely.

The time for complacency is over, hon Deputy Speaker. The people of the Western Cape need urgent and practical intervention now and the DA must take full responsibility for that. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bans. I recognise the DA.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, as we observe Child Protection Week we are called upon to reflect deeply on the responsibility we all share as a society to protect the safety, dignity and well-being of every child in South Africa.

This week reminds us that children are our country's greatest treasure and its most vulnerable citizens, yet far too many of our children continue to face realities that no child should ever endure - abuse, violence, neglect, hunger, bullying, exploitation and poverty. These painful realities remind us that the protection of children cannot be confined to one week of awareness but must remain a daily national commitment.

As leaders and public servants we cannot remain silent while children suffer. Child protection is not merely a social concern, it is a constitutional, moral and national responsibility that demands action from families, communities, schools, law enforcement agencies, faith organisations and Government alike.

Hon Deputy Speaker, today I want to acknowledge and commend the important work being done by hon member Kaizer-Philander and the ad hoc committee, who continue to engage directly with communities, listening to their concerns, the concerns of families and children, and ensuring that these voices of vulnerable South Africans are heard and represented in this House. Their work reflects the kind of compassion and responsive leadership our country needs.

Many children carry burdens far beyond their years, but they must always

remember that their circumstances do not define their destiny. There is hope beyond hardship and there are people committed to standing beside them, protecting them and helping them realise their full potential.

Child Protection Week must never become a symbolic exercise. The conversations we hold and the promises we make must translate into meaningful action, strong accountability and real change in the lives of our children because when a nation protects its children it protects its future. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Western Cape still records the highest number of drug-related crimes of all our provinces. The Freedom Front Plus wishes to express its serious concern about the reports of even young children becoming drug and alcohol users.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are concerned about grassroots reality and then reports on the other hand of programmes where there are preventative and early detection programmes available to address the problem, which begs the question are these programmes effective or not and are they accessible to all communities and schools?

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus calls on parents to play their role in guiding their children. Substance abuse is a serious problem in the province and it will require an all-of-government approach, including those of parents, to help us address this problem. The Substance Abuse Helpline is 0800 12 13 14, for those who need counselling while they are struggling to get into a rehab centre for assistance.

We also call for greater collaboration between the Education Department and Social Development Department to ensure that children have access to social workers at short notice and counselling services.

The Western Cape can be governed better, but it will require greater collaboration between departments if we are going to save our children in the Western Cape. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker †Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Raheem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.] The Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam (peace be upon him) said [speaking in the vernacular] cleanliness is half of faith. I thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The ACDP in the Western Cape notes with deep concern the growing challenge of malnutrition during the first thousand days of a child's life. This period is universally recognised as a critical and healthy growth of the brain development and long-term well-being of a child.

Poor nutrition during pregnancy and early childhood can result in stunting, weakened immunity, developmental delays and lifelong health complications.

The ACDP welcomes interventions from the Provincial Government aimed at addressing this crisis. Involvement focuses on maternal healthcare support and breastfeeding promotion programmes. Interventions include nutritional supplementation at clinics, feeding schemes and Early Childhood Development centres.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP believes that every child deserves a healthy start to life and calls for strengthened partnerships between Government communities, faith-based organisations and the private sector to protect the future of our children. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. I recognise the GOOD Party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Deputy Speaker, I have no statement, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron. I recognise the DA.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Team Western Cape on their outstanding achievements at the 2026 Autumn Athletics National School Sport Championships.

The Western Cape once again demonstrated excellence, determination and sporting talent on the national stage. Our learners with special educational needs team achieved an extraordinary milestone by being crowned national champions and securing first place overall. This is a remarkable achievement that reflects hard work of the athletes, coaches, educators and support staff who continue to uplift and empower learners through sport.

Equally commendable is the performance of the Mainstream athletics team which secured second place overall nationally. Competing at this level requires discipline, resilience and immense dedication, and every athlete who represented the Western Cape has made the province proud.

A special congratulations must go to Lamichah Adamson from Mitchells Plain, who stunned spectators in Pretoria by breaking the under-15 200 metres national record. This incredible accomplishment is an inspiration to young

athletes across the province. Her achievement sends a powerful message to young people in communities across the Western Cape, that talent, hard work and opportunity can open doors and create champions.

To every athlete, coach, parent and school involved, congratulations. You have flown the Western Cape flag high and reminded the country that this province continues to produce excellence. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van Minnen. Hon members, in terms of Rule 145(6) I now give one or more hon members of the Executive an opportunity to respond to Members Statements, but not for more than five minutes collectively. I see the hon Acting Premier.

The ACTING PREMIER (Dr I H MEYER): Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to make an Executive Statement on behalf of the Cabinet.

The Western Cape is currently experiencing the impact of severe weather, including heavy rainfall and strong winds within the Garden Route, as earlier referred to, the most affected areas. There have been incidents of flooding, fallen trees, road closures and disruptions to electricity in certain areas.

Disaster Management teams across all spheres of government are fully activated and are responding to the incidences as they are reported. I arrived last night from Johannesburg and immediately went to the Disaster Management Centre, and I was there this morning together with hon Minister Anroux Marais.

We can confirm, as has been mentioned earlier today, one fatality in the Knysna area where a tree fell onto a vehicle. Our thoughts are with the affected families during this difficult time, as expressed by the hon member Londt from the Executive.

The question is what is the Government currently doing about this matter because this is a developing matter? The response is being coordinated through the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre and the various joint operation centres. This includes the deployment of emergency and rescue teams, ongoing road and traffic management, humanitarian support for affected communities, continuous monitoring of the rivers, the dams and the weather systems. All the response efforts are coordinated within municipalities and partner agencies.

The most significant impacts were in the Garden Route. Other areas, such as the Central Karoo, have reported damage to informal structures and displacement, while the Overberg and Cape Winelands remain on high alert.

At this stage evacuations have been implemented in high-risk areas and I am very pleased to report to this House that a family that was stuck on a farm 20 kilometres outside Beaufort West last night, was trapped in heavy rains, they could not move and had to move to a higher area on the farm. I am very thankful that they have been evacuated early this morning through our rescue services and our Department of Health.

The question always asked, what is our message from this Cabinet to the residents? Our message is very clear: avoid flooded areas and low-lying areas; stay away from rivers, bridges and unstable ground; follow official Government platforms for verified updates; adhere to strict instructions from the local law enforcement agencies and municipalities, because public safety remains the top priority.

Well, one of the questions that we received during the course of the day, hon Minister Marais and I, was “is the danger over?” No, the risk does not end when the rain stops. Even after the rainfall subsides hazards can remain: saturated ground can be weakened, tree roots and infrastructure which may lead to delayed incidents such as falling trees, damaged power lines and structural failures. I am happy to report that some of these Eskom lines have subsequently been restored for electricity, specifically in the area of George and in Bitou.

All communications through the Joint Operations Centre are there to ensure that proper information is verified because we also have a stream that deals with verified communication.

The obvious questions that we also get in terms of the humanitarian support; we have provided humanitarian assistance, for example, through temporary shelter, food, water, blankets and essential supplies.

The question is what is the next 24 to 48 hours in stock for this Government? The immediate focus is on preventing and protecting lives and ensuring public

safety; supporting the affected communities; restoring critical services such as electricity and access to routes; ongoing monitoring of weather patterns and weather levels.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have seen that the severity of this crisis was mainly in the Garden Route area. Hence we agree that this is a matter of public importance. The hon Minister and I was not planning to go there tomorrow morning. We have changed our plan because of the matter of public importance and severity. We are flying tomorrow to visit those affected areas, but we will first get the briefing by the Disaster Management Centre in George.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Acting Premier. That concludes Members Statements. We will proceed in terms of Rule 150.

We now move to Motions without Notice. I would like to inform you that in terms of the Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolences, congratulatory was submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary, on 5 May 2026. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolences will not be allowed in this sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed, hon members, at the Programming Authority meeting on 5 May 2026 political parties submitted the names of hon members in the desired order of speaking and who wished to move a motion without notice in this

sitting. I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority and is as follows: hon member Masipa, hon member Masipa, hon member Masipa, hon member Masipa, the hon Masipa, hon member Masipa, hon member Van Minnen, hon member Windvogel, hon member Kamfer, hon member Stoffel, hon member Bans, hon member Lekker, hon member Nkondlo and hon member Sayed.

I now put these motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections? There are no objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the Proceedings and in Hansard in each individual member's name as if that member read it out aloud.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Wesgro on signing a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Emirates during the 2026 World Travel Market Africa, which significantly enhances global market access for the Western Cape's agricultural sector; notes that this partnership directly supports the provincial Growth for Jobs Strategy by

securing a high-speed “farm to shop” turnaround of 24 to 48 hours for local perishables, ensuring that premium produce reaches the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Far East and India at peak quality; acknowledges that this cold-chain bridge is vital for the export of fresh fruit, seafood and floriculture, providing our agri exporters with a competitive edge in international markets; and further notes that, by opening these high-value trade routes, the agreement bolsters the economic resilience of the Western Cape agricultural industry and helps safeguard the thousands of jobs that depend on successful, export-oriented farming.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the national Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, on the strategic appointment of 27 external technical advisors to accelerate the registration of essential agricultural input under the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947); notes that these specialists, including experts in agricultural remedies, stock remedies and farm feeds, will work to clear the current administrative backlog, ensuring that fertilisers and pesticides are evaluated for safety and efficiency with significantly improved turnaround times; and commends this commitment to streamlining Government processes and enhancing

service delivery, which provides vital support to our farmers and the broader agricultural industry while maintaining the high safety standards necessary to protect human health and the environment.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the South African apple industry and the industry body, Hortgro, on celebrating 364 years of excellence and resilience since the first harvest was recorded in the Cape on 17 April 1662; notes that, from a single 1,5m tree planted over three centuries ago, the industry has flourished into a world-class sector with 45 million trees producing 1,3 million tonnes of apples annually, making South Africa the largest apple exporter in the Southern Hemisphere; commends Tru-Cape for the symbolic planting of a rare Witte Wijnappel tree at the Jan van Riebeeck High School to mark this milestone, an initiative that honours our agricultural heritage while celebrating the school's centenary; acknowledges the meticulous research and dedication of industry veterans Henk Griessel and Buks Nel whose efforts to reintroduce this historic cultivar from the Netherlands preserve the botanical history of the Western Cape; further notes that the apple industry is a vital economic pillar, exporting to over 100 countries and supporting more than 240 000 jobs, primarily in the Western Cape's rural communities; and extends its sincere appreciation to the growers,

farmworkers and technical experts in the industry for their innovation and hard work, which ensures that South African apples remain a globally recognised symbol of quality and growth.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Healthy Future South Africa (HFSA) on the successful hosting of its mental health awareness exhibition at the Dulcie September Civic Centre in Athlone on Thursday 16 April 2026; notes that the event provided a vital platform for Grade 12 learners to engage directly with health professionals and specialists, breaking the silence about mental-health challenges and equipping young people with practical tools for their emotional well-being; commends the involvement of the University of Cape Town and the Year Beyond initiative for their commitment to youth leadership and outreach, helping learners, such as Zoe Bothman and Tharah Petersen, to explore diverse health-related career paths, from speech therapy to public health; and acknowledges the importance of such community-driven initiatives in Athlone and the surrounding areas for empowering the youth to prioritise their mental health while navigating the pressures of their final school year and future career transitions.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Ms Nadia Toni Jacobs, a senior counsellor and resident interventionist at the Belthorn Primary School, for her extraordinary commitment to crisis intervention and emotional support for learners across Athlone and the surrounding communities; notes that Ms Jacobs serves as a vital anchor for children from vulnerable areas – including Philippi, Hanover Park and Khayelitsha – navigating complex challenges, such as bullying, gender-based violence and substance abuse, to create safe spaces for healing and disclosure; commends her resilience in the face of significant safety risks and the emotional toll of frontline work, as well as her dedication to coordinating essential support with the Western Cape Education Department and the Department of Social Development to ensure the safety of our youth; and acknowledges that her personal mission to protect and uplift every child, summarised by her guiding principle “I see you, I hear the unspoken words” represents the very best of community leadership and grassroots service in the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates The Open Stage Foundation with its formal establishment and its remarkable work in providing structured access to

the performing arts for the youth across the Western Cape; notes that the foundation, founded by Rhônel Butler after 32 years of community-arts service, serves as a vital bridge for young creatives in under-resourced schools by offering mentorship and professional platforms for dance, drama, music and poetry; commends the foundation for securing high-level mentorship from industry legends, such as Peter Butler, and for facilitating prestigious performance opportunities at The Wave Theatre, at the upcoming Suidoosterfees 2026 and at the Iziko South African National Gallery; acknowledges the transformative power of the arts in nurturing confidence and self-expression among the youth of the Cape Flats; and celebrates The Open Stage Foundation's commitment to ensuring that talented young artists have the resources and visibility to achieve their full potential.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing away of Mimi Coertse, a towering figure in South Africa's cultural and musical heritage, on 27 April 2026 at the age of 93; acknowledges that Mimi Coertse rose from humble beginnings to international acclaim, becoming one of South Africa's most celebrated operatic sopranos and a principal artist at the Vienna State Opera, where she performed for over two decades; recognises that her excellence was honoured internationally,

including being named a Kammersängerin by the Austrian Government in 1966, and receiving the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art, alongside numerous South African accolades for her contribution to arts and culture; commends her enduring commitment to the development of young South African talent through initiatives such as the Mimi Coertse Bursary and the Black Tie Ensemble, which expanded access and opportunity in the classical music sector; affirms that her life and legacy stand as a testament to the global impact of South African artistry; and hopes that her contributions will continue to inspire generations of performers and creatives across the nation and beyond.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with immense pride the outstanding achievement of 11-year-old chess champion Masson Jesse Steren who, alongside his coach, has secured a rare and remarkable double achievement; notes this exceptional accomplishment not only highlights Masson's talent, discipline and dedication to the game of chess, but also underscores the vital role of mentorship in nurturing excellence; and further notes their joint success brings honour to their community and the country at large, and stands as a powerful testament to what can be achieved through hard work, focus and guided support.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms F KAMFER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with great pride the outstanding achievement of the Khayelitsha Kyokushin Karate Dojo, which delivered an exceptional performance at the Kyokushin Budokan Western Cape Championships, securing an impressive 11 trophies from 12 fighters across various categories; and notes that this remarkable accomplishment reflects the discipline, resilience and dedication of the athletes, as well as the strength of community-based sporting development in Khayelitsha, with young karatekas representing their area with distinction on the provincial stage.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Mr Mfundo Radebe, one of the recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Prestigious Achievers Award at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, on graduating with a Master's degree in Public Relations and Communication Management; notes his outstanding academic achievement; notes that this recognition reflects his excellence, dedication and commitment to the field of communication; and serves as an inspiration to current and future

students.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates all the autumn season graduates who have successfully completed their respective academic journeys during this period; notes that this milestone reflects their resilience, discipline and unwavering commitment to their studies, often in the face of significant challenges; notes that this stands as a testament to their determination to building a better future for themselves and their communities; further recognises that these graduates represent a new generation of skilled and capable individuals who are ready to contribute meaningfully to the social and economic development of our country; therefore, congratulates all autumn season graduates on this important achievement; commends their dedication to excellence; and wishes them continued success as they embark on the next chapter of their personal and professional journeys.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sorrow the tragic and brutal killing of

Sharon Kayster, a 40-year-old woman from Blue Downs, who was allegedly ran over and killed by her ex-husband in a horrific act of violence; notes that it is particularly distressing that this incident occurred despite the victim having reportedly obtained protection orders against the alleged perpetrator, highlighting serious concerns about the effectiveness of existing safeguards meant to protect women at risk; further notes that this senseless act has not only robbed a family of a loved one, but has also shaken the broader community and once again exposed the devastating realities of gender-based violence and femicide in our society; further recognises that this tragedy underscores the urgent need for stronger interventions, accountability and a more responsive justice system to protect vulnerable women; expresses heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and community of Sharon Kayster; and calls for swift justice in this matter.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing away of Cynthia Philisiwe Shange, a trailblazing South African actress, model and beauty queen, who passed away at the age of 76; notes that Ms Shange was a pioneering figure who broke barriers during apartheid, becoming the first black woman to represent South Africa at the Miss World pageant in 1972, and later building a distinguished career in the entertainment

industry with roles in iconic productions such as *Muvhango*, *Shaka Zulu* and *Udeliwe*; further notes that her life and legacy reflect courage, excellence and a commitment to opening doors for future generations; further recognises that her passing away is a significant loss not only to the arts and cultural community, but also to the nation as a whole, as she leaves behind a rich legacy that will continue to inspire; expresses heartfelt condolences to her children, family, friends, colleagues and all who were touched by her remarkable life; and honours her enduring contribution to South Africa's cultural and social history.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Edward Kieswetter, Commissioner of the South African Revenue Service and a distinguished alumnus of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, on receiving an honorary doctorate in Business and Management Science in Taxation during the autumn graduation; and notes that his remarkable career reflects the impact and possibilities of a CPUT education and that it stands as an example of excellence and service to the nation.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will now afford the opportunity for hon members

to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule 150(3)(d). This could also include motions without notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are reminded that 30 minutes, as per the Standing Rule 150, will start now and I recognise the hon member Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the launch of the third phase of the Regent Villas Extension 2 Social Housing Project in Weltevreden Valley; notes that a project by the National Department of Human Settlement, with the Deputy Minister Tandi Mahambehlala, doing the official launch; further notes that the project has a total of 110 units consisting of bachelor to three bedroom flats, 70 outside parking bays and communal facilities. It is well-placed, near work opportunities and small to larger scale businesses in the area. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no objection, agreed to. I now recognise the hon member Kamfer. [Interjections.] I now recognise the hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the announcement of the recruitment drive by the Department of Health and Wellness, which includes 316 nurses, 124 doctors and 80 emergency medical personnel. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? [Interjections.] There is no objection, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern that 35 members of the police in the Western Cape Anti-Gang Unit are under criminal investigation, with 45 members facing internal disciplinary actions. We want a police service that is disciplined in protecting our communities. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the zero-tariff policy that China has opened for African countries, including South Africa; notes the new policy offers South Africa the opportunity to export goods such as fruit, vegetables, wine and other agricultural products to one of the world's largest consumer markets. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no objection, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the successful fourth African Youth Kungfu Championship held at Fairbairn College in Cape Town from 25 to 26 April 2026; notes that teams from Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia participated in the annual event; also notes that the South African Chin Woo KungFu, also fondly known as the BlitzFus, won the championship with 16 gold medals; further notes that Team Zimbabwe finished second place with six gold medals, with Zambia and Botswana tied for third place with three medals each; acknowledges the dedication of World Champion, Shifu Muhammad Junaid Chafeker in organising the annual championship; further acknowledges Shifu Muhammad Junaid Chafeker, also known as MJ Li, who is a Hall of Fame Inductee, for his dedication in developing the sport in South Africa; lastly sends its warm regards to the Blitzfus, and in particular coach Muhammad Junaid Chafeker, for flying the South African flag high. I so move, thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes International Firefighters' Day on 4 May and

recognises the bravery and dedication of the men and women on the frontline of disaster response in the Western Cape; further notes that the Western Cape's Disaster Management Centres remain among the best prepared in the country, enabling swift and coordinated responses to fires, floods and other emergencies, and commends all out frontline workers for their continued service in keeping our communities safe. I hereby move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Mbombo.

Prof N MBOMBO (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the agreement signed between the Cape Amalgamated Taxi Association (CATA) and the Congress of Democratic Taxi Associations (Codeta), marking an important step towards ending taxi-related violence in the Western Cape; further notes that this

agreement brings hope for safer, more reliable public transport for the millions of residents who depend on the minibus taxi industry daily and commends all stakeholders working towards peace, stability and safer communities. I so move, thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes the decisive action taken by the DA-led Western Cape Education Department to protect learners during severe weather conditions in parts of the province; further notes that 125 schools in the Eden and Central Karoo Education Districts have been closed due to heavy rainfall and severe weather conditions in the area, ensuring the safety of learners and educators remains the top priority. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: Objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection.

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: We are objecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, I have already noted the – are you rising on a point of order? I recognise you, hon member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much. I am concerned by the fact that hon MEC Mackenzie has been quiet throughout the sitting. Is there something troubling him? [Interjections.] Perhaps... [Incomplete.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we are drawing to the end of this particular parliamentary session. I have noted that there is an objection and the

motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes that it has been two years since the George building collapse of 6 May 2024, which claimed 34 lives and left 28 people injured; further notes that we remember every life lost, every family still grieving and every survivor who continues to live with the consequences of this tragedy; further notes the Democratic Alliance calls on the NPA to take decisive prosecutorial action following the completion of the SAPS investigation into the George building collapse. This was a disaster that should never have happened and must never be allowed to happen again. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Where is the report?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Where is the report?

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. [Interjections.]
There is an objection.

An HON MEMBER: Okay, I object for the record. We want the report.
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: We want the report.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...I am going to pose the question: are there any
objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed
on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Masipa.

An HON MEMBER: Transparency is key.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the introduction of a Private Members Bill by the DA, titled the Economic Inclusion for All Bill. This is a transformative policy designed ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We object.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA):

...to replace the failed and ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We object in advance.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA):

...and exclusionary framework of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment; notes that after decades ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Inclusion, inclusion of sell-outs.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA):

...BBBEE has abjectly failed to uplift the majority of South Africans. Unemployment of Black majority has risen ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): You did not even introduce your ...[Inaudible.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA):

...to 35,8% and nearly 30 million Black citizens still living in poverty. This is our brothers and sisters living in villages and townships such as Khayelitsha, Langa, Soweto, Gugulethu, Heideveld and so forth; notes that this happens while an estimated R1 trillion has been shifted to a politically connected elite few; commends the Economic Inclusion for All Bill for introducing a merit-based scorecard where Value for Money, including pricing, technical capability and innovation, accounts for 80% of the criteria, ensuring that taxpayers' rands are protected and quality services are delivered; acknowledges that the remaining 20% of the scorecard focuses on genuine economic inclusion, rewarding companies for measurable social impacts such as job creation, skills development and poverty reduction, rather than mere political ties or racial categorisation; further notes that this Bill represents a fundamental shift toward justice by using poverty as a primary indicator of disadvantage, ensuring that empowerment finally reaches the unemployed and impoverished majority instead of an insider class; extends the House's support for this bold alternative that promotes shared prosperity and calls on all members of the Government of National Unity to champion this move toward an economy that is inclusive, fair and based on the dignity of all South Africans. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No objection. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We object. We object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise hon member Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the Department of Infrastructure's Services and Opportunities Fair hosted in Elands Bay, aimed at bringing Government services and economic opportunities closer to communities across the West Coast; further notes the Western Cape Government's continued infrastructure investment in the region through the 2026/27 Budget, including R337,6 million for safer roads in Vanrhynsdorp, Klaver and Citrusdal, R87,1 million for the upgrading of public facilities and R370,1 million for Human Settlements projects in Moorreesburg,

Malmesbury and Clanwilliam; acknowledges that infrastructure investment remains a key driver for service delivery, economic growth, job creation and improved living conditions for residents across the West Coast. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Prof Mbombo.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the launch of the draft National Rail Master Plan for public comment by the National Department of Transport as a positive step towards the restoration and modernisation of South Africa's rail network, including in the Western Cape; further notes the importance of a functional rail system in reducing transport costs, supporting economic growth and connecting residents to opportunities, and the need for inclusive public participation in shaping the final plan. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to.

An HON MEMBER: Object, object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I am going to pose the question ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: We object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? [Interjections.] There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): I move without notice:

That the House recognises June as National Environment Month, a critical period to reflect on our collective responsibility as custodians of the earth and to accelerate action against the dual threats of

environmental degradation and climate change; notes with grave concern the "biological siege" currently facing the Western Cape, where industrial-scale syndicates have stripped over one million seeds and 2,5 million indigenous plants from our landscape since 2018, driving several unique species toward functional extinction in the wild; further notes the devastating impact of marine crime, with nearly 20 000 tons of abalone poached over the last four years, creating a treadmill of poverty that exploits vulnerable coastal communities and entrenches social decline through the influx of illicit drugs; acknowledges the urgent need for a whole-of-government approach to protect our living infrastructure, utilising advanced technology such as drones and License Plate Recognition cameras to act as force multipliers for our overstretched enforcement units; acknowledges that any increase in enforcement needs to be matched by investment in our judicial systems, especially with dedicated prosecutors who can walk these cases through to completion; further calls for the expansion of the biodiversity economy through aquaculture and sustainable farming projects to provide residents with legitimate, stable livelihoods that starve criminal syndicates of their workforce while building climatic resilience; resolves to strengthen the Province's commitment to environmental protection and climate adaptation, ensuring that the Western Cape's world-renowned biodiversity is preserved as a functional asset for the dignity and prosperity of all future generations. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Van Minnen.

†Me B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Ek stel sonder kennisgewing voor:

Dat die Huis met verbasing kennis neem dat agbare Gayton McKenzie 'n Engelse uitnodiging uitgestuur het wat gesê het:

“Let’s Celebrate. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will be hosting celebrations of the Afrikaans language.”

†Vir die viering van 100 jaar van Afrikaans as amptelike taal by die Oorlogsmuseum; neem verder kennis van die ironie dat 'n viering vir Afrikaans hoofsaaklik in Engels bemark word, wat vrae laat ontstaan oor die Minister se begrip van die belang van die taal en die kultuur daaragter; erken dat Afrikaans 'n belangrike taal is wat deur miljoene Suid-Afrikaners van verskillende gemeenskappe gepraat word en dat dit opregte erkenning en bevordering verdien; spreek kommer uit dat die Minister al hoe meer uit voeling lyk met die gemeenskappe en kulture wat hy sê hy verteenwoordig; doen 'n beroep op die Departement van

Sport, Kuns en Kultuur om taal- en kultuurvieringe met meer respek, erns en sensitiwiteit aan te pak. Ek dank u.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with surprise that hon Gayton McKenzie sent out an English invitation that reads:

“Let’s Celebrate. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will be hosting celebrations of the Afrikaans language.”

For the celebration of 100 years of Afrikaans as official language at the War Museum; notes further the irony that the celebration of Afrikaans is marketed mainly in English, which raises questions about the Minister’s comprehension of the importance of the language and culture behind it; acknowledges that Afrikaans is an important language spoken by millions of South Africans and that it deserves true recognition and promotion; expresses its concern that the Minister seems to be more and more out of touch with the communities and cultures which he says he represents; calls on the Department of Sport, Art and Culture to approach language and cultural celebrations with more respect, earnestness and sensitivity.

I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise the Secretary who will end the meeting and that concludes the business of the day. Thank you, hon members.

The House adjourned at 17:13.